



## Korean coach cheers for China

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## Analyzing Olympic outfits

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# Olympic fever peaks

The opening ceremony is days away and Beijing's Olympic fever is hotter than ever.

As delegation after delegation arrives to warm up, *Beijing Today* caught up with locals and volunteers to see where the eve of the Games found them.

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## The tattoo that changed his life

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## School doubles the guards for US team

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## Shopping for all the tea in China

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*Wei Shengchu shows his enthusiasm - and acupuncture skills - by pinning the 204 national Olympic flags to his skull.*



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The streets are lined with uniformed volunteers drawn from local seniors.

IC Photo

# On the eve of the Olympics

With one week left until the Olympics commence, Olympic fever has swept Beijing. Streets are lined with flowing banners, blooming flowers and flocks of smiling, uniformed volunteers.

*Beijing Today* asked local residents, volunteers and security staff, who are getting ready for the once-in-a-century gala, if they were prepared. The unanimous answer was "Yes."

## Locals

### In with the new veggie markets

By Milo Lee

When God closes two crappy markets, he opens a new, clean one. Well, maybe not God, but the government sure does.

To rectify the market and assure the cleanliness of vegetables during the Olympics, the municipal government launched a campaign to crack down on unsanitary and illegal vegetable markets and street vendors.

Li Yueqin, a 31-year-old housekeeper who works for a small magazine, found her grocery bills rose steadily since mid-July. The market she usually went to had been closed, and she had no choice but to buy her produce from the nearby supermarket, where the prices were much higher.

"I cook for 20 or so people every day. Normally, 100 yuan per day would cover all the expenses. But since I have to buy overpriced vegetables at the supermarket now, it's a blessing if I can keep [the bill] under 200," Li said. "The economic pressure has become very severe; the money I can spend on food is limited."

Other residents near Li's workplace felt the same pressure.

A few days later, Li's produce bills fell to their normal rates when a new community vegetable

market opened. "The market is very clean and the vegetables are as good as the ones in the supermarket – just cheaper. There is no need to worry about prices anymore," Li said.

According to the plan, 200 vegetable markets will be reworked to meet government standards before the Olympics.

A recently-released statement from the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Commerce urged all district offices of commerce to fully inspect local vegetable markets before July 21 and to make sure residents' needs for farm and sideline products will be met.

### Dealing with the odd-even swap

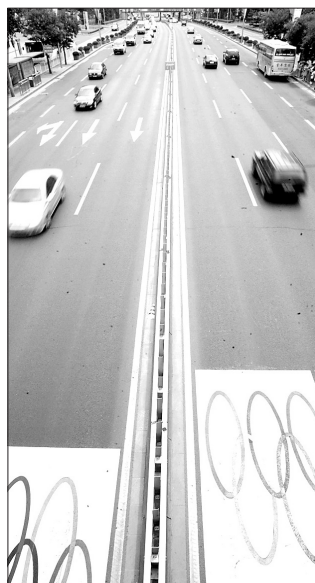
By Milo Lee

"Riding the bus or subway in Beijing is a great way to lose weight," Liu Zhan, a products manager, said. Liu lives near the center of North Third Ring Road. Before the odd-even license plate system started July 20, he usually drove to work.

Now he has to take public traffic on even-numbered days. "As the Olympics approach, people are pouring into Beijing. Every time I ride a bus or the subway, I feel like I'm battling for space," Liu said.

Liu is not fighting alone. Half of the city's private cars are off the road every other day.

According to a survey conducted by the Beijing Social Facts



Traffic lightened after the odd-even policy.

CFP Photo

& Public Opinion Survey Center, 60 percent of car owners have taken public transportation since the restrictions were introduced. Carpooling with colleagues and neighbors, bicycling or walking to work are alternatives.

The Beijing government also carried out a series of measures to ease the pressure of the ban. Working hours were staggered, 18,000 buses were added to shoulder the burden of new passengers and three new subway lines opened.

"Public transit is not very convenient, considering there are

more passengers now, but the way I look at it is that I won't be stuck in traffic anymore and I can read or listen to an MP3 player while on the bus," Liu said.

"Now we have to go through more troubles to get to work, but at least something good comes out of it," Liu said, talking about visible improvement in the city's air conditions.

Some have pounced on the restrictions as a way to make money.

A man surnamed Zhang from Pingguoyuan in southwest of Beijing began to rent his odd-numbered car to even-numbered plate holders. "I don't drive my



Everyone wants a picture in front of the Bird's Nest.

Photo by Zheng Lu

car that much, so I decided to rent it and earn some money."

### Anything for an inside look

By Zheng Lu

A close view of the Games is the dream of most visitors in Beijing. Zhou Cheng, a biology PhD from the Chinese Academy of Science,

is among the dreamers.

Humming the melody of "Beijing Welcomes You," Zhou mounted his camera on a tripod and aimed it at the Water Cube.

"I'm a shutterbug. For such a great event, I cannot miss the chance to take pictures at close range," Zhou said.

When he knew the last batch of tickets would be sold last Friday, he got in line a day in advance. But even the 24-hour jump was not enough time to get an Olympic Game ticket. In the end, he settled on two tickets to the Paralympics.

"You never know when you will get another opportunity to watch the Games live. This may be my only chance," Zhou said.

He said he could see the Olympic Village from his dorm.

Clad in a T-shirt with the Fuwa on his chest, Zhou said he hopes the steel fence will be knocked down after the Games. "Then we can get closer to the venues," he said.

The infrared alarm monitors along the fence beep incessantly. An armed policeman guarding the Water Cube looks up at the alarm and says, "It's another visitor who stepped over the line."

A white line running parallel to the fence marks the alarm boundary. The policeman said anyone who steps over the line sets off the surveillance monitor.

The alarms beep when crowds of photographers get too close to the fence in search of that perfect angle.

"I can't wait to see the inside of the venues," Zhou said. For Zhou and others, the wait continues.

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People's Armed Police are using Segway-like vehicles in their anti-terrorism drills.

IC Photo

Continued from page 2 ...

## Shipping restrictions strangle net vendors

By Gan Tian

Zhang Xuewei, 32, was a full-time online shop owner. He sold tanning oil, moisturizers and other cosmetics. His business went smoothly since he opened the shop in November 2006 – that is, until last month.

His shop was based in Tongxian District, far from the city's downtown. Many of his products were imported from Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries.

Usually, he would have an express delivery agency distribute products to his customers the next day. It would cost 5 yuan for the delivery if the customer was in Beijing, and 10 or more for other cities. However, Zhang was informed that he could not deliver his liquid and powder products outside Beijing as of last month.

Five days ago, the express agency told him it would not deliver liquid and powder products to areas around the Olympic venues. "Because of the Olympics, the security checks are stricter," Zhang said. But this time, it did not affect him so much. Since his shop had a good reputation among customers, many went directly to Zhang's home to pick up their purchases.

According to his Web site, cities in Henan, Hebei, Shandong, Shanxi, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui, Hunan, Hubei and Guangdong provinces, as well as Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai, can receive his goods. Other provinces are not being serviced during the Olympics.

There are many online shop owners like Zhang whose businesses are being hit. The express agencies in Beijing cannot deliver even CDs and DVDs. Luo Xuan, a Hebei vendor, could not transport his goods into the capital due to vehicle checks. Vehicles bound

for the downtown must have a special pass and few can get one. Later, Luo came up with an idea to find Zheng Zhulian, one of his business partners who had the special pass. He asked Zheng to

do during summer vacation."

"I am so excited that I can come to Beijing and serve in the security of the Beijing Olympics. My parents are so proud of me, they encouraged me a lot," he said.



Thousands of militia are keeping order on the streets. CFP Photo

transport his goods into Beijing for a small fee. However, when he reached Zheng's home, he found a huge line of people with the same request. Zheng was paid 250 to 500 yuan for each shipment.

## Security

### University students serve the security force

By Venus Lee

Shao Huihui, 18, a sophomore from Kaifeng University in Henan Province, is one of the Olympic security volunteers. His task is to ensure public security in an underground passage near Baoli Theater in Dongcheng District. He goes on duty at 8 am every day.

He enrolled in the Beijing Security Volunteers when China Security & Protection came to his University to recruit during his first year. Shao said he decided to apply to work as a security guard since he had "nothing special to

Shao has been working for almost a month, and is already accustomed to the job.

There are about 190 guards in his squad, Shao said. Most are from Henan Province, and all are university students – mainly freshmen and sophomores. "For most of them, it is the first time they have come to Beijing," Shao said.

After he arrived in Beijing on July 5, he was given a week of security and Olympic training, and his squad was dispersed throughout Dongcheng District. Their main tasks are to prevent peddlers, beggars and anyone who would disrupt the Olympics, and to call police in the event of violence or an emergency.

All staff works in turns. Each guard has two shifts each day. Shao's on-duty hours are 8 am to noon and 8 pm to midnight.

Compared with Shao, Niu Zhe, a freshman from the Zhengzhou Institute of Aeronautical Industry Management and Shao's partner, was much

more stressed with his task of patrolling Baoli Square under the hot sun.

Though the security work is not hard, and can even be a bit boring, Shao said they still felt happy and honored to serve the Olympics.

Many retirees have been organized by nearby communities to do security-related assessments, Shao said. They wear white T-shirts with a red armband, and are assigned to inform police about any possible security interruption.

An estimated 11,000 people will be used for safety and security work during the Olympics, according to statistics from the Security Command Center for the Games.

These people consist of unarmed police and armed police. Aside from this professional security team, the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee has recruited a large number of social and community volunteers to offer security services in and outside stadiums and surrounding areas. The committee has called on community residents to strengthen self-prevention awareness and actively provide clues

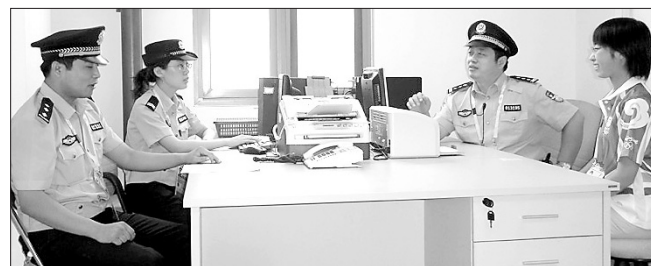
sible for any foreigner involved in a case in the village.

Liu Yanxiang, the director of the team, said, the squad members have been gathered from the Police Training Department and the Exit-Entry Administration office of Beijing Public Security Bureau. Meanwhile, there are 15 university student volunteers provide security service in the team as well.

Liu said the team has conducted eleven drills since it moved into the village. Their mission focus on public security service. All what they do is to guarantee a safe and peaceful environment for foreigners living or working in the village.

The squad has lived in the Village since last month, and has communicated and cooperated with personnel from other units in the village to practice emergency handling.

Liu said the work is increasingly intensive, and it is hard to keep up with both their regular lives and work. Although they are on duty every 16 hours, each team member remains alert even after his shift ends.



A special squad living in Olympic Village is responsible for which involve foreigners. Photo by Li Zhixin

in time once they notice a suspicious person.

### Special squad on security alert

By Venus Lee

A police security service squad in the Olympic Village keeps on duty round the clock. The team has 22 members who are respon-

The team members have to live in the village all the time, so most have not seen their families in almost two month. However, Liu said no one complains, because everyone knows how important his work is and be willing to contribute to the Beijing Olympics.

Continued on page 4 ....





Over 75,000 volunteers started their work in the city.

CFP Photo

Continued from page 3 ...

### Airport inconveniences, checks spare none

By Zheng Lu

Life has changed a lot for Xin Xin, an aircraft maintenance engineer at Beijing Capital International Airport, since the Olympic period began.

As the most important non-competition venue during the Games, the airport plays a decisive role in public security. Two weeks ago, anti-nuclear biochemistry security apparatus was put to use at every entrance of 19 airports, including Capital International. All passengers and people who are going to receive their friends or even personnel who work in the airport have to go through the safety check.

To pass through the electric door successfully does not mean you can enter the airport. According to a newly-released regulation, all luggage must be opened and examined by security except for women's purses. When the policy began, half of the queues for passengers extended beyond the gates of Terminal 3, the world's largest airport terminal.

"Suddenly, I had more checks to go through before I could reach my station," Xin said. Besides the general check procedure when entering the airport, he needs to go through a checkpoint at each area along his route. To finish the whole series of checks takes almost 30 minutes. He now has to wake up at 6 am to start his

shift on time.

The entrance security check is not the only new security measure at the airport. On July 20, police began to use bomb-sniffing dogs to search for suspected articles in the airport.

"We are not allowed to get into the airfield anymore, and the staff there cannot get out," Xin said. Only with working identification for the area can they reach their respective work sites.

The new airport subway route offers passengers a comfortable trip to the city center within 30 minutes. "Seats are not hard to find, and many people rush to the windows in

the front and at the back of the train to enjoy a view of the green suburbs," Li Dongfeng, a subway passenger, said.

## Volunteers

### Volunteers hold ground to the big day

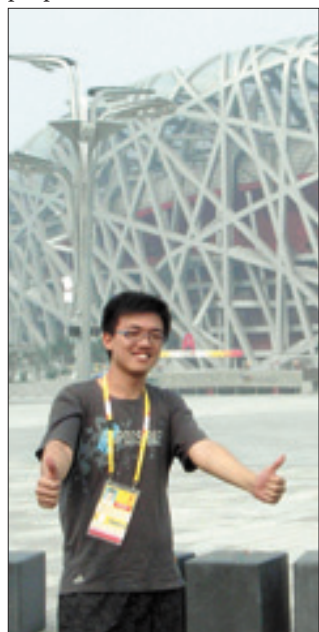
By Zhang Dongya

When the Olympic Village opened last Sunday, athletes from 200 countries and regions began to arrive in succession. For the Olympics volunteers, it is time to put their training to use.

Chuck Li, 21, a senior student in Capital University of Economics and Business, was very excited when he officially took his post Monday. Li serves as a volunteer in the traffic department, and his main job is to meet athletes in the airport and escort them to the Olympic Village.

His first day on the job, he worked the afternoon shift. About 3 pm, he left for the airport with the driver. After nearly 40 minutes, they arrived and waited for the foreign teams. However, no athletes arrived during the following hours, and they went back to their site alone.

At dining time, Li heard from his colleague who had morning shift. The colleague said he had greeted the German team, and its members asked to be introduced places along the route. Li decided to prepare in case the team he greeted had the same request.



Chuck Li

Photo provided by Chuck Li



Many streets have volunteer stations.

CFP Photo

Wednesday morning duty came early, and Li had to get up at 4 am to reach the site before 6 am. It was so humid and hot that he was sleepless the previous night and felt tired. Li met the team from Brazil at the airport. "Welcome to Beijing! We are now going to the Olympic Village. If you need any help, you can ask me. I hope that you have a good time in Beijing!" he said.

The regular bus to his school was late that day, and it was already 10 pm when he arrived. He was off duty the next day so he could get a good sleep. Li said he would serve as the volunteer till the end of Paralympics.

Starren, 23, a college senior, serves as a volunteer at Haite Hotel in Shijingshan. He is on day-night alternating duty for eight hours. With the Olympic Village opened, Starren has been

going to his post regularly. He was in charge of hotel reception, to register for athletes living in the hotel. "It is not so busy, but we have to stay up when on the night duty," Starren said. Since his university was far from the hotel, the biggest trouble for him was the commute.

Edi, 21, also a senior, was still waiting for his formal post. He serves at the Fengtai Sports Center Softball Field as an information assistant. "I will probably be on duty till August 5," Edi said.

He is in charge of supervising the information channels for communication among people, like Walkie-Talkies and transceivers, and also for recording activities in the venue.

Xinhua reported that a total 74,615 volunteers will work in Beijing and another 7,600 will be based in the six co-host cities.



# UN calls for Olympic truce

(AFP) – The United Nations General Assembly and UN chief Ban Ki-Moon on Monday called for a truce in hostilities around the world during the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Assembly president Srjan Kerim made an appeal to member states to observe an Olympic truce, following an ancient Greek tradition dating back to eighth century BC.

Ban, meanwhile, said a truce would provide “a pause in which to reconsider the heavy cost of war, an opening to initiate dialogue and a window to provide relief for suffering populations.”

The Olympic Games are scheduled to take place from August 28 to 24 and the Paralympic Games from September 6 to 17.

Last October, the General Assembly unanimously adopted

a resolution calling on member states to observe a truce during the Games and to help build “a peaceful and better world through sport.”

The resolution urged all member states to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee “in its efforts to use sport as an instrument to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond

the Olympic Games period.”

Ban said Monday that the ideals of the Olympic movement underpinned those of the UN Charter and that the truce, though temporary, had “unlimited potential.”

“It can demonstrate to the world that peace is possible in even the most seemingly intractable situations if we truly work towards it,” he said.

## Olympic Homestay hosts first foreign tourists



By Zhang Dongya

Peter and Simone from Germany, the first foreign tourists in the Olympic Homestay, lived in the Dajinsi Hutong in Shichahai. The couple hoped to experience the authentic Beijingers' life in Siheyuan instead of hotels.

Jing Jichang, the host learned some English for the reception of foreign tourists. Jing said all the rooms had been booked, and five tourists from Taiwan and another three from Germany will come to visit within the next couple of days.

Photo by Bruce Hao

## Toilet tales of terror spark change

(The Star) – The Beijing Olympics are just around the corner and a quick glance at the news Web sites will reveal that aside from preparations for the Games and for all sorts of contingencies, the city has taken great pains to assure visitors of the quality, availability and hygiene of its public conveniences.

A July 4 report in the *China Daily* quotes a 1994 Beijing tourism survey which revealed that 60 percent of foreign visitors were afraid of using the city's public rest-rooms. That, of course, was long before Beijing was awarded the 2008 Olympics.

In the run-up to the Games, city authorities have reportedly installed 5,333 toilets, the most of any metropolis in the world, and 1,561 mobile ones, many of them at the Games venues.

China's toilets have gained a notorious reputation since the country opened to tourism in the 1980s. Not so long ago, travel to China prompted the question, “How are the toilets?” Even now, a few have said they hesitate or would never visit the country for fear of the “facilities.”

To be sure there are public conveniences, especially in the less developed areas, that would test one's tolerance. But then, I am not one to dwell on a couple minutes of horror, or judge a country by any single factor. Moreover the past few years have seen many changes in the bigger cities, and what is important is that things are constantly improving.

It goes without saying that the further away from the metropolitan areas, the more chances of experiencing an exotic toilet.

While travelling in Shanxi a few months ago, our group took a break at a mudbrick village an hour south of Datong. A kind-hearted farmer allowed us into her earthen farmhouse that was no more than two small bedrooms with a narrow cooking area in between.

The toilet was nowhere to be seen and when asked, our hostess said it was on the other side of a low wall at the far end of the front yard. Expecting some kind of an outhouse, I rounded the fence and nearly fell into an open pit about 3 meters in diam-



Beijing has installed over 5,000 toilets in the run-up to the Games.

CFP Photo

eter. Fortunately, the crater was empty save for some hay.

A “transitional”, and more prevalent model, of this type of amenity consists of a long stainless steel or ceramic drain, also separated into small sections by low dividers, but with a flushing water tank at one end.

Granted lavatories like these are still common in remote or rural areas, but most cities have come a long way since the 1980s.

Meanwhile, back in Beijing, with the Olympics due to begin next week it is reported that some 8,000 workers have been trained to maintain the public toilets, and citizens given instructions on their use.

Hopefully these dedicated efforts will continue to yield results long after the Games, and make a lasting positive impact on the sanitary habits of the citizens in other parts of the country.

## Girls will be girls at Games

(Time) – Suspicious-looking woman athletes participating in the upcoming Olympic Games in Beijing will be forced to take a gender test, Chinese authorities announced.

To ensure that girls will be girls, officials have set up a sex-determination laboratory where they say that tests will be conducted with the utmost delicacy by four experts from the Peking Union Medical College Hospital.

The hospital has spent more than a year designing the facility to ensure the minimum of embarrassment for those athletes who may be asked to prove their credentials.

The country wants to avoid any disruption of the kind that marred the 2006 Asia Games in Doha when Santhi Soundarajan, the Indian middle-distance runner, was stripped of the silver medal she won in the 800 metres track event after failing a sex-determination test.

Professor Tian Qinjie has worked in the gynecological department of the hospital for 30 years and is among the nation's experts. He told state media “Suspect athletes will be evaluated from their external appearance by experts.

## Gates helps push for a smoke-free Olympics

(dbTechno) – The co-founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates has come out and stated that his foundation is going to be donating money to help the push for a smoke-free Olympic games in Beijing.

Gates stated at a press conference in New York City on Wednesday that he was going to push for tobacco use around the world to be cut.

He was joined by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, as together the two pledged over US \$350 million to the cause.

US \$130,000 of the money from the Gates' foundation will go towards Beijing, and the plan to have a smoke-free Olympic games.

Beijing will be banning all smoking at indoor public locations.

## Video leaks images of Olympics opening ceremony

(Guardian) – A Korean TV network has shown a video of a dress rehearsal for next Friday's opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics.

It is unclear whether the video's release was authorized, although it is highly unlikely as there has been a huge security clampdown around the ceremony with Chinese officials closely guarding their secret plans.

The 30 seconds of footage shows kung fu fighters, trapeze gymnasts, a giant earth globe, floating 3D humpback whales and orchestral music.



## Beat of the blogosphere

By He Jianwei

Throughout the Olympic Games, *Beijing Today* will dedicate three to four pages to the Olympics on the Internet: the hottest topics, relevant search terms, Olympic celebrities and the most popular videos.

# Tattoo fan's face becomes Olympic canvas



By Milo Lee

The title of Garbage Tattooist may go to Liu Ming, because 95 percent of his body is tattooed. Last year, Liu added the Olympic logo to his face. In daily life, people stay away. Most assume the inked 44-year-old is a gangster.

Liu found fame last July when his photos made it to the Internet. Some idolized him for his bravery while others labeled him a deceptive showpiece. Either way, Liu does not care. The tattooed man said he just wanted to show his support for the 2008 Beijing Olympics in his own way.

### China's one and only

On his left abdomen is the huge Chinese character *jue*, which means unique or rare. Liu says he is a China exclusive, because no one else would be crazy enough to tattoo his whole body for the Beijing Olympics.

On his forehead, the Beijing 2008 logo and Olympic rings are tattooed, on his right temple is a map of China, on his cheeks the Great Wall and across his nose and around his mouth the characters for Beijing. The five Fuwa circle his neck.

Liu's tattoos extend over the rest of his body, even some places beyond mention. The entire inking process cost more than 100,000 yuan.

### Origins of the ink man

Liu was born into a farmers' family in Henan Province. Countryside residents are stereotyped as more conservative, but Liu was the exception. He got his first tattoo when he was 23 years old.

Over the next 19 years, he would add another 200 to his collection.

"I love tattoos, I like to do things other people are afraid to," Liu said.

"When I came to Beijing last March, people everywhere were preparing for the big event. One day, I went to Tian'anmen Square and saw that giant countdown clock and a crazy idea entered my mind. I could tattoo myself with the Olympic logos to do something for my country," Liu said.

But by then, his body was already covered with all kinds of tattoos: the only blank space was on his face and neck.

"I went around asking tattooists to do it, but no one would. They were all afraid I would sue them after they tattooed my face," Liu said.

After hundreds of rejections, Liu finally found someone who would do the job. A few months later, his artwork was completed.

### Criticized by the cyber-mob

Last July, he was invited to a fair and hundreds came to see his tattoos. A photographer uploaded his half naked photos onto the Internet and turned Liu's life upside down.

Before he hit the Internet, most people who met Liu saw him as an honest, down-to-earth guy. The cyber-mob was not so kind. "I rarely use 'crazy' to describe someone, but this one is too good to pass up," one poster wrote. Another compared Liu to Wentworth Miller's character in *Prison*

Break, saying he probably has a brother to bust out.

"Everyone has his own way to show support for the Olympics. I had thought this through before I tattooed my face, so whatever they say, I don't mind," Liu said.

Despite the negative reactions, Liu also found a lot of friends and strangers who endorsed his decision. A policeman in Zhongguancun once told him he believed Liu was a truly remarkable man, Liu said.

Last December, Liu released a personal statement in the

Tattoo Bar at Baidu.com. He begged netizens to stop insulting him. "Some people say I got all these tattoos trying to be famous. I do not want to explain myself because this is all a misunderstanding," he wrote. Most respondents were supportive.

"I don't care what others think of me, whether they like my tattoos or not. I love my country very much, and this is my way of

showing it," Liu said.

### Contending with consequences

Liu came to Beijing last spring with his wife. The two started a small business in a vegetable market. Today, he lives in a tattoo shop with his friends. "I can't go home. My wife and children are upset about my tattoos. My wife even cried when she saw me after I tattooed my face. My older son visited me only once this year," he said.

Liu said he sometimes wishes he could remove the tattoos. "Looking like this, I can't find a job. I even can't even beg for money. People slam the door in my face," he said. When Liu tries to hail a cab, drivers refuse to stop. Liu was once rejected by several taxis, and an old lady he asked for help fled in terror.

With no salary, Liu can barely make ends meet. When the earthquake rattled Sichuan Province this May, Liu borrowed 100 yuan from a friend to donate to the victims.

Another thing Liu fears is to see his parents. "I haven't seen my parents for many years. My wife said she could deal with the way I look, but what about my parents? They are very old. I am afraid to let them see me like this."

But Liu said things cannot be undone, and he has learned to accept his appearance.

"I want to show people all around the world how dedicated the Chinese people are to the Olympics," Liu said.



Liu's inking obsession began 21 years ago.

## Links

### Other ways people welcome the Olympics

By Milo Lee

Liu Jiqin, horse-drawn BMW, from Dalian



Liu Jiqin, a former military man, built a horse-drawn trailer with the Olympic logo and named it "BMW." This trailer includes a living room, a bedroom, a bathroom and a kitchen. It has all the common home appliances, even enough equipment for a karaoke party. Liu used two tons of iron to build the "house" and planned to drive it to Beijing for the Olympics. However, because its construction cost 100,000 yuan, he can no longer afford to make the trip. Currently, he is hoping someone will bail him out so he can realize his dream.

Li Xuedong, King of the Roar, from Wuhan



Li Xuedong supports the Olympics by showing off his lung capacity. He can shout for as long as 90 seconds and as loud as 120 decibels. His voice once set off 60 car alarms. So far, Li has traveled to 12 cities to unleash his roar and inspire passion for the Olympics.

Wei Shengchu, getting to the point, from Guangxi



July 6, Wei Shengchu, 58, appeared at Beijing Railway Station with 208 mini-flags stuck into his scalp with needles. Wei said he is an acupuncturist and wanted to wish the Beijing Olympics well. There are 204 national flags of different countries and regions and three flags of China. In the middle of his forehead is the Auspicious Cloud torch. CFP Photos



# BBC's Monkey travels east

By Wang Yu

On July 24, the BBC released a two-minute animation video on its official Web site. The short movie, which is based on the classic novel *Journey to the West*, is the introductory installment of BBC's Olympics 2008 and will be broadcast on television all over the UK.

*Journey to the West* tells the story of the stone-born Monkey King Sun Wukong who – with a motley crew of helpers in tow – accompanies his master Tripitaka (Tang Monk) to India to bring the Holy Scriptures back to China. The 16th-century story is familiar to all Chinese people and reminiscent of the heroic dreams of childhood. Likewise, the Monkey King is a classic character in Chinese literature.

The BBC's video clip was produced by the same team behind the virtual band Gorillaz: Damon Albarn, former lead vocalist of Blur, one of the greatest bands during the era of Brit-pop and Jamie Hewlett, the creator of *Tank Girl*. This two-minute trailer took twelve weeks to complete, using a team of four senior key animators and five animation assistants, with soundtracks composed by Damon Albarn featuring traditional Chinese instruments, such as the pipa, erhu and guzheng. Topping off the creation were ethereal vocals provided by singer

Jia Ruhan.

The video chronicles the Monkey King's trip with Pigsy (Zhu Bajie) and Sandy Monk (Sha Seng). After conquering various monsters on the road, they finally reach The Beijing National Stadium, also known as The Bird's Nest.

This animation intro is just a part of the artists' project. Their opera, *Monkey: Journey to the West*, which was started by director Chen Shizheng and premiered at the Manchester International Festival in 2007, opened at the Royal Opera House in London on July 23. An album of *Monkey* is also due out in the UK this summer.

Chen Shizheng, director who spent two years to find the right circus company, martial artists and performers, was introduced to Damon Albarn and Jamie Hewlett by Alex Poots from the Manchester International Festival. Before this video, Albarn had traveled between China and the UK several times at Chen's invitation and stayed in Beijing, Shanghai and Fenghuang, Hunan Province, searching for inspiration. Some leading actors of the opera were selected from a Dalian troupe known for their acrobatic performances on stage.

The animation can be seen as the BBC's desire to broadcast a journey to the east. But debates rage over its intent.



## Links

### Other clips

**Heroes – the IOC Commercial**  
[youtube.com/watch?v=zMh54ijxRs](http://youtube.com/watch?v=zMh54ijxRs)



The International Olympic Committee released a video to promote the Beijing Olympics this summer. In the short titled *Heroes*, Yao Ming and Liu Xiang, two of China's most famous sports stars, lead the cast while other sports celebrities such as Swiss tennis player Roger Federer, French swimmer Laure Manaudou and Russian pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva also appear in the movie.

*Heroes* is also a part of the IOC's The Best Of Us project, which is defined as a cross-culture movement to spread the spirit of the Olympics.

### The Mummy's Olympics

[youtube.com/watch?v=QnJL-uTik38](http://youtube.com/watch?v=QnJL-uTik38)



NBC Universal's summer blockbuster *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor* also wants to use the Olympics for promotional purposes. The conglomerate launched a marketing campaign that blends imagery from the Beijing Olympics and the new movie on a common background as both are staged in China.

An extended 150-second spot was broadcast during the NBC series *America's Got Talent*. The special effects in the video fuse Olympic footage with *Mummy* movie scenes which will then be edited into different lengths to be shown on TV or in theaters.

Marketing of this kind is always attached to major sporting events, the most recent example being the promotion of *Iron Man* and the NBA playoffs.

**Stadium Astro Transformers**  
[youtube.com/watch?v=boh3b2rHaHA](http://youtube.com/watch?v=boh3b2rHaHA)



Among all the commercial videos of this summer's Olympics, the Stadium Astro's transformer athletes are definitely the coolest.

The robots perform gymnastics, tennis, football, basketball and many other actions before they transform into aerocrafts. Robot sci-fi themes have been popular since *Transformers*, so a Malaysian TV station inserted the theme into many of its commercials pushing major sports events like the Euro Cup 2008.

These videos are expected to grab the attention of the younger set and boost ratings.



## Comments

Regardless of what you think about the quality of animation, it is all merchandizing. One good point about this animation is that it cleverly shows various Olympic sporting events, including the hammer throw, the 100-meter sprint with hurdles, the pole vault, the horizontal bars in gymnastics, the relay race, Taekwondo, diving and the obstacle race.

– konman001

I absolutely loved it! I think an important part of the Olympics is to embrace the culture of others, more so than winning medals. Monkey is a great way of expanding understanding of the East, as this character was also a part of our childhood.

– Chairmandog

Unfortunately, to really appreciate Damon's work, you have to already know the story of *Journey to the West*, which most Brits don't. Otherwise it is pretty confusing to see instead of the usual visions of athletes running in slow motion. People expect to see a sports-oriented theme, but this theme is very cultural with sport mixed into it. All in all, this is a very daring piece of work by the BBC, and now I have a lot of respect for the corporation.

– sttph2008

First I have to say I am a Gorillaz fan and this video is so Jamie style. I do not understand why some people see it as an uglification of Chinese spirit. To me, I think it is a perfect combination of a Chinese ancient story and British pop culture.

– Song Nannan

Growing up in a mixed culture household (my mother from Singapore and my father Canadian), I count stories of the Monkey King among my most enjoyable childhood tales. It was not until several years ago when I moved to the UK that I discovered the old 70s show, so to dismiss the animation as being targeted to a particular age demographic is hardly a valid complaint. It was nice to see an intro that had been inspired by the host country and there were ample references in the animation to various Olympic sports.

– AquilaBlue

I was surprised when I saw the intro. I did not know *Journey to the West* was known in Britain at all. The animation was great even though the theme was a bit confusing. Is this not supposed to be Britain at the Olympics rather than mythical creatures from an ancient Chinese novel? I loved it none the less. I hope to see more of these animations during the coverage.

– Typingfromwork

I hope the Chinese repay us for this in 2012 by producing animation videos of Charles Dickens and Jane Austen novels. I do not like the character design at all. Why does Monkey have a permanent sneer on his face? Even when he is smiling he looks menacing.

– AgentWhale

(All comments from the BBC's blog)



# Chinese elements used in the Olympic Games' uniform designs

By Jin Zhu

The Chinese delegation's attire for the Opening Ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games was unveiled last Thursday. Because it is a rare opportunity for the host country to present its culture to the world during the Games, the cool, sporty outfits have been a matter of public concern.

Since April of this year, 205 delegations have unveiled their own outfits for the Olympic Games. Many countries have decorated their uniforms with Chinese elements, such as Chinese characters and Chinese traditional images. *Beijing Today* has selected some of these that are rich in Chinese elements and collected comments from the Internet about these designs.



CFP Photo

## Chinese delegation

### National flag colors

The attire for the Opening Ceremony of the Olympics has been selected from 1,000 designs. Red and yellow, which are the colors of the national flag, have been used predominantly in these suits. Male athletes will wear yellow shirts, red blazers and ties adorned with the Olympic five-ring symbol. The outfits for the women consist of yellow blazers, with red stripes and scarves symbolizing "lucky clouds." Trousers, caps, belts and shoes are all white.

In an interview with CCTV, Liu Ruiqi, chairman of Hengyuanxiang Group, said, "The designers have taken into consideration the effect strong lights will have. That's why we finally decided the colors for these outfits would be red and yellow, since these colors reflect light very well. Therefore, when the Chinese delegation appears

at the Opening Ceremony, they will be eye-catching."

### Comment

*If everyone stands in the proper position on the field at the opening ceremony, they can actually form the shape of the Chinese flag. It could look kind of neat.*

— Newepistles, chinadaily.com.cn

*Red and yellow are the right colors for this Olympics attire. It is full of Chinese features. However, it is not harmonious enough as a whole. The white cap is absolutely excessive.*

— Ai de danchengpiao, a blogger from qzone.qq.com

*This suit looks out of date. I do not understand why we have to wear bright red in every important occasion. Actually, bright red is not a Chinese traditional favorite. Before Qing Dynasty, the clothes of Chinese people were simple and elegant all the time.*

— Ai Weiwei, tianya.cn

## Spanish delegation

### Chinese company's work

The main colors of Spanish uniforms for the Olympics are orange and yellow hues familiar to the Chinese. However, the style of uniform is quite different from the Chinese suits. The whole outfit is full of romantic spirit. It was designed by a Chinese sports company — Lining Company.

### Comment

*Lining has become a successful international brand. The uniforms for the Spanish delegation are great.*

— Xiao Liulian

*Compared with Chinese uniforms, their white skin suits the bright yellow*

*and red colors.*

— Qianqianluanpaopao

*The uniforms for the Chinese delegation were not designed by Lining. What a pity!*

— Milanduling

(All comments from tianya.cn)

*The Olympics has always created tension with two distinctive attitudes. On one side, there is fierce nationalism and competition. On the other, a sense of global brotherhood when the nations come together. So while one person believes the uniforms must be designed and manufactured at home with local textiles, another person can be proud of global input.*

— Miss Cellania, a blogger on mentalfloss.com



CFP Photo

## Canadian delegation

### Chinese elements from material to graphics

The most controversial team uniforms so far are the designs from Canada's Hudson's Bay Company. The uniforms are made of environmentally-friendly materials, such as bamboo, organic cotton and compound cotton. All these materials prevent ultraviolet radiation, deodorize and absorb sweat. Designers explained that, considering the high temperatures in Beijing, they have tried their best to make the athletes feel comfortable with the clothing design.

The designs feature both Canadian and Chinese symbols and text. White and red are the main color of the uniform. Metal, wood, water, fire and dust, which can be classified into the Five Elements in traditional Chinese philosophy, are reflected partially in Canadian uniform. On the uniforms, "Canada" is written in English and Chinese. The maple leaf is in the shape of an eight, which is a lucky number in China.

### Comment

*Badly done, Canada. There are many wonderful things about our neighbors to the north, but these uniforms are definitely not one of them. They are eye-catching though—and they'll probably end up in a lot of photos. Maybe it's a good choice, exposure-wise?*

— Kate

*Am I the only person who actually likes the Canadian uniforms? I think they look cool and different. I also like the way they show appreciation for Chinese arts and design.*

— Redbeki

*I really like the Canadian uniforms. I prefer them to the US uniforms, which are so very preppy. Instead, the Canadian uniforms seem a lot more fun, which is what I really hope the Olympics are about.*

— Manda

(All from Miss Cellania's blog on mentalfloss.com)



CFP Photo

## Germany delegation

### Marked Chinese characters

The uniform for the German delegation adopts elegant gray as its main color. And as for the daily T-shirts, German athletes will wear white, which is a traditional color in Germany. On the back of the shirt, "Germany" is written in Chinese. Next to it, "Thanks, Beijing" in Chinese. Dragon pictures are embroidered on their shirts.

### Comment

*I think the German uniforms are the best out of all. They just seem more suited to what the Olympics are all about.*

— Erik, from Miss Cellania's blog on mentalfloss.com

*The German uniforms are as formal and precise as their language.*

— 214978, bbs.cri.cn

*I like the German uniforms best. They look elegant, especially at night.*

— Rody2190, tianya.cn

## Russia delegation

### Akin to the Chinese phoenix

The Russian team's retro-style uniforms are designed by Direct Design and produced by Bosco Sport. The bright scarlet and white uniform for women feature Russian folk designs based on the "firebird," which is an akin to the Chinese phoenix. For the men's uniform, royal blue is the main color. The uniforms have the imperial Russian double-headed eagle insignia emblazoned on the jacket pockets. They are meant to promote Russian physical training at the Beijing Olympic Games.

### Comment

*Since Russia is our neighbor, some folk-custom elements are similar to ours. Look at their shirt with flowers. Does it not remind you of one of the Chinese cotton-wadded jackets for women?*

— Fengmobao, a blogger on 163.com

*I like the Russian outfit for its perfect union of color and style.*

— An anonymous netizen on qq.com

*The Russian uniforms are really great! It will certainly catch the eye of the public.*

— An anonymous netizen on sohu.com

*I think the Russian attire is good, and its firebird emblem is really special.*

— An anonymous netizen on qq.com





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# University beefs up security for US team

By Zheng Lu

It was 9:30 pm when a police car cruised slowly through the campus of Beijing Normal University with its light flashing on the top. On one side of the road, a group of US athletes was jogging in the sweltering summer heat.

The university was chosen as the US team's training base one year ago. The news media erroneously reported earlier that the athletes would reside on campus but the team has been settled in the Olympic Village, Deng Yaping, an official of BOCOG declared last Friday. Many students were disappointed at the news, but the university did not lower its guard.

ID card in hand, a reporter from *Beijing Today* entered Beijing Normal University to check out the situation.

A steel fence divided the campus into the exclusionary and



The stadium secured by fence.

Photo by Hu Bin

confined areas. Students and teachers could enter the confined areas with their ID cards, which were verified at checkpoints. For the exclusionary areas, however, only members from the US delegation were given access to.

Checkpoints were set up sporadically along the road every 50 meters, with computer systems inside and several security guards watching alertly. Surveillance cameras were positioned everywhere.

Even the truck that carried goods sent by the US delegation had to stop to be checked.

Occasionally, when walking along the streets of the university campus, foreigners in twos and threes wearing a US emblem on their chests crossed the lanes. They were working staff of the US Delegation, according to personnel who worked at the headmaster's office. Few stopped to talk to them or paid them much attention.

Two junior students said the Americans' arrival had brought benefits to them, such as the opening hours of the university bathhouse changing from several hours to the whole day.

Unlike the students' nonchalant attitude toward the American Team's arrival, some teachers who lived at the university felt a little uneasy.

A retired philosophy professor surnamed Wang said, "We

have to bring our identification and teacher cards with us or we will not be able to travel the roads either inside the university or outside." He also said the sites that they had used to exercise every day had been closed for the US Team. "We have to wait until the end of August to regain our privileges when the athletes leave Beijing," he said.

Qiu Jiduan Stadium was designated as the team's main training venue. Enclosed by steel bars and security guards at every corner, the newly-built stadium admits nobody except working staff of the venue and US team members.

The boxing team was the first to practice on campus. Although they brought food from the US, the team's cook was still interested in Chinese food and tried to learn how to cook Kung Pao Chicken, a famous Chinese dish.

## Korean coach shakes up Olympics

By Han Manman

For China, the Beijing Olympics will be a huge celebration of national pride, and the organizers are encouraging the Chinese people to play a role. Along with more than a million volunteer applicants and retirees learning English to communicate with visitors, cheerleaders will also be part of the Olympic passion.

As many cheerleaders are busy in rehearsals one week ahead of the Olympics at the Beijing Olympic Basketball Gymnasium, a Korean face in the group has raised eyebrows. She sometimes sits quietly to watch the cheerleaders, sometimes she shouts to correct their mistakes.

She is South Korean Cho Soo-Jin, 34, president of China's top cheerleading team, Soojin Dance, and also appointed by BOCOG as the advisor of Olympic cheerleader performances, as well as the director of the basketball cheerleader teams. The media has dubbed her the "sexy goddess of the sports arena."

### Dreams can come true

BOCOG's appointment was no surprise to Cho. Under her direction, the Soojin Dance team has performed at Beijing Olympic test events since last year. "One BOCOG official said he was moved by our performance and our enthusiasm," Cho said. Since then, she felt a major opportunity was on its way.

When she received BOCOG's official appointment letter in February, Cho said she felt so happy. "I finally fulfilled my Olympic dreams," Cho said. She was born into a poor South Korean family and struggled in Beijing over 14 years.

Being the director, Cho needs to control everything concerning the cheerleading teams' performances at basketball events including dance moves, costumes, music and even the per-



Cho Soo-Jin (middle) with her Soojin Dance members.

Photo provided by Soojin Dance

formers' lunch and dinner.

For three months, Cho rarely had a chance to go home. "Two or three times a month I might get home, but most of the time I slept at the Soojin Dance's training base," Cho said.

### Shocking performances

She said the audience will have a chance to see many cheerleading teams perform during the basketball competitions, including an NBA cheerleading team from the US, the Ukrainian team and the French team.

Cho's Soojin Dance is the only amateur team with members from many other industries. The training largely affected their daily work schedules and some members even quit their jobs to concentrate more on the performance.

Cho said Soojin Dance has prepared performances, designed by four South Korean choreographers. "I promise you will be

shocked by their performances," Cho said.

She said that the 20 series are varied from hot cheer-dance to updated Chinese dance. "A part of the show combines rich Chinese elements. Don't be surprised when you see the cheerleaders dance with everything from traditional Chinese silk fan style and Beijing Opera to the even more unique Chinese Yangge dance," she said.

### Cheerleader for China

Cho was one of the first foreign trainers to set up exercise classes in Beijing's gyms. In 1999, she founded the Soojin Dance Team and the earliest members were seven regular attendants at her gym class.

People have gotten to know her through her Soojin Dance and their energetic cheering performances at sports events, such as the Chinese Basketball Associa-

tion (CBA) games and Good Luck Beijing pre-Olympic events.

Having lived in Beijing for 14 years, she speaks fluent Chinese and is married to an American Chinese. Cho said she will cheer for the Chinese team at the Olympic Games, even when it competes against Korea.

She said South Korea will understand. "All of my achievements were realized in China. Although I experienced hard times and frustration in China, I am determined to never give up."

As for her plans after the Olympics, Cho said she wants to write her second book *Sexy China*, as a follow up to her first book, published in South Korea several years ago. The book will describe how a South Korean could lead a Chinese amateur team to the Olympics and how China has changed as seen through a South Korean's eyes.

## A touch of old Italy comes to the Games



Robert Baggio's boot (middle), worn in the 1994 World Cup.

Photo provided by Casa Italia

By He Jianwei

Casa Italia, an area for commercial and promotional activities during the Games, opened last Saturday at Haidian Exhibition Center. Casa will operate for four weeks, from July 26 to August 24, for the public to experience the sports, music, art, architecture and food of Italy from 10 am to 6 pm daily.

"Sports is the main role of the Olympics, but the Games is not only about that. As one of the most ancient civilizations and the center of Europe's art and culture, Italy enjoys profound natural and cultural resources. We hope to show to the world during the Games the country's sports culture and national spirit," Giovanni Petrucci, president of Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI), said.

Casa is located near the Olympic Sports Center. It is 5 kilometers from the Bird's Nest and 8 from the Olympic Village. The facility is divided into three exhibition areas, including Piazza Italia and the Partner Area.

The exhibition is organized in Renaissance style, with its fulcrum in the square.

The Piazza Italia hosts the TV and radio broadcasters, the CONI press center, a store designed for the Italia Team, a technical sponsor merchandising outlet and a refreshment room.

The Partner Area displays various companies from Italy, including the sports brand Freddy and the sports car Ferrari. The exhibit includes the football boots Robert Baggio wore in the 1994 World Cup.

Piazza will show an eight-hour program including highlights from the Olympic Games on its big wall. The scheduled events include cooking shows and tasting nights which will alternate with concerts held by big names in Italian music as well as disco nights.

From August 8 to 24, parties dedicated to Italian star athletes will be held according to the different Olympic competitions.

Casa has been the headquarters of Italy during the Olympic Games since 1984.



# Religious services revamped with more foreign languages

By Annie Wei

Many more foreigners are expected in town this month, and the city's religious venues are making preparations.

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception has set up a foreign affairs group and is training volunteers in English and etiquette to serve foreign Catholics, Father Han Wensheng, said.

Other Catholic churches like Church of the Sacred Heart (Beitang Cathedral) offer mass in German. St Joseph's Church (Dongtang Cathed-

ral) will deliver mass in Italian and the church in Dongjiaomingxiang will give mass in Korean and French.

The Beijing parish of the Catholic Church has recruited 17 volunteers to serve at the multi-faith religious worship center in the Olympic Village, including six priests, five nuns and six monks.

Beijing has selected 12 of the city's 70 mosques as the reception venues for Muslims, and equipped them with Arabic signs and barrier-free facilities.

## Beijing religious venues open to all

### Beijing Gangwashi Church

Where: 57 Xisi Nan Dajie, Xidan, Xicheng District

When: Sunday

Tel: 6617 6181

### Church of the Sacred Heart

Where: 33 Xishiku Dajie, Xi'anmen, Xicheng District

When: 5 am - 6 pm

Tel: 6617 5198

### Dongsi Mosque

Where: 13 Dongsi Nan Dajie, Dongsishitiao, Dongcheng District

### Niujie Mosque

Where: 18 Niujie, Xuanwu District

When: 4 am - 8 pm

Tel: 6353 2564

### Our Lady of Mt Carmel (Xitang Cathedral)

Where: 130 Xizhimen Dajie, Xicheng District

When: 6:30 am - 7 pm

Tel: 6653 7629

### South Cathedral

Where: 141 Qianmen Xi Dajie, Xuanwu District

When: an English-language mass on Sundays at 10:30 am and 4 pm.

Tel: 6602 6538

### St Joseph's Church (Dongtang Cathedral)

Where: 74 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Monday - Saturday 6:30 am - 8 am, Sunday 9 am

Tel: 6524 0634

### Yonghe Lamasery

Where: 12 Yonghegong Dajie, Beixinqiao, Dongcheng district

When: 9 am - 5 pm

Tel: 6404 4499

## The following churches are only open to foreign passport holders

### Beijing Baptist Church

Where: 3/F, CITIS Hotel, 2 Beisanhuan Dong Lu, Olympic Area

When: 10 am, 11 am and 5:30 pm every Sunday

Tel: 8721 7449

### Beijing International Christian Fellowship

Where: room 220 2/F, 21st Century Hotel, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang District

When: Monday - Friday 11 am - 5 pm; Sunday 9:30 am - 12 pm

Tel: 8454 3468

The largest interdenominational English service in Beijing with live translations in Cantonese, Filipino, French, Indonesian, Japanese and Russian.

### Capital Community Congregation

Where: Ballroom of Yosemite clubhouse, Shunyi District

When: Sunday 10:45 am. Classes for all ages during school months at 9:30 am

Tel: 8046 2716

### Congregation of the Good Shepherd

Where: 3/F Meeting room, Capital Mansion Athletic Club, 6 Xinyuan Nan Lu, Sanlitun, down the street from the Kunlun Hotel and across the street from the Huadu Hotel

When: Sundays 10-11:50 am

Web site: cogs-bj.org

### River of Grace Church

Where: 2/F, Great Hotel, 1 Zuoqiazhuang Lu, Dongzhimen, Chaoyang District

When: Sunday 10am

Tel: 6466 1680

### Jewish

#### Chabad Lubavitch of Beijing Chabad

Where: F1 Kings Garden Villa, 18 Xiaoyun Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8470 8238 ext 200

#### Kehillat Beijing Jewish Community

Where: 3/F Capital Club 6 Xinyuan Nanli, Sanlitun

When: Open regular Shabbat Friday nights and holidays

Web site: sinogogue.org



The Gangwashi Church, established in 1922, claims to have prepared 50 multilingual interpretation listening devices for foreign worshippers. CFP Photo

## Wheels and weather briefing

### IC card accepted in cabs

Ninety-five percent of the cabs have installed induc-tors which accept the transportation IC card. Drivers are required to ask if the passenger plans to pay with an IC card when they get in and must not refuse a fare.

### Special traffic controls next Friday

The traffic controls will start as early as 11:30 am in some spots but lasting only from 6 pm to 8 pm in other areas on August 8. Authorities advised spectators not to drive their own cars to the opening ceremony, as there will be no parking.

### Bus Info

Buses will run non-stop from 28 designated stations across the city to the Olympic Green Park, a few minutes walk from the National Stadium. After the ceremony, the buses will carry passengers to transfer stops at seven subway lines and 100 standby bus routes.

### Weather Info

The weather authority has opened a hotline at 6871 0008. People can hear weather conditions for Beijing and the six Olympic co-host cities.

(By Wei Ying/Zheng Lu)



For many who will arrive over the next few months, the Olympics is not their only destination. It is this capital city that they are curious to explore and collect memorabilia. From this week through the end of September, *Beijing Today* will present a series of guides. The guide includes current popular sites for food and shopping, and will lead visitors to the sites of interest too new for your guidebook. We hope you can feel the pulse of the city and dig deep into Beijing's daily life.



Platform China Contemporary Art Institute

## Exhibition

### Sports in Art Exhibition

Sports in Art Exhibition, organized by Adidas and supported by the Opera Gallery, opened last Friday at Today Art Museum, which features works of art by 70 artists from around the world, including paintings, sculptures, photography, video art, interactive art, installations and live performances. Some of the artists involved, such as Wang Guangyi and Yue Minjun, are internationally renowned, while others are just embarking on their careers.

Where: Today Art Museum, Building 4, Pingod Community, 32 Baiziwang Lu, Chaoyang

When: till Aug 24, daily except Mon. 10 am – 9 pm

Tel: 5876 0500

### Hutong in Pencil Sketches – Kuang Han Solo Exhibition

To preserve the hutongs, Kuang Han's series of pencil sketches are an unusual expression of a usual object.

Where: Beijing Wan Fung Art Gallery, the Imperial Archives, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: till Aug 2, daily 10 am – 5 pm (Mon-Fri), 10 am – 5 pm (Sat-Sun)

Admission: Free

Tel: 6523 3320

### Fire His Breath, Jade His Bones – Shi Jinsong Solo Exhibition

This show challenges the conventional concept of an exhibition by emphasizing the "materiality" of contemporary art. The idea of this project first emerged in the summer of 2007 when Shi Jinsong became enchanted by the potential of two kinds of natural materials in making art: fire and jade. This exhibition is the result of his experimentation with both materials over the past year.

Where: Platform China Contemporary Art Institute Main Space B, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: till Aug 24, daily except Mon. 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 0091

### Opening

The exhibition, aims to investigate the possibilities in blossoming social art form through the

Where: Aura Gall

Park, 1 Tuofangying M

When: till Aug 20

10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 8390

### Visions – Gabriel B. Solo Exhibition

All the exhibited looking pieces which everyday things – fiberglass, resin, old – because under B these objects have been something different thing not of this world

Where: Soka Ar

& Sea Business Pla

Dajie, Dongcheng

When: till Aug 24



## Invading a mother's personal space

By Li Jing

Removing your shoes and walking through a soft silk curtain, you will find yourself in a mysterious cave or the inside of an organism, wrapped in ceiling-to-floor pure white silk. The exhibition stage

dismisses the normal concept of an exhibition space, making "viewing" an aggressive act by entering a personal and private place.

This is Lin Tianmao's solo exhibition, titled *Mother's*, showing her works created

over the past two years. Having previously worked with such mediums as large-scale installation and printing, this time Lin turns her focus to small-scale installation, breaking away from bodily existence, materials and subject matter she used. "The growth of

age plays an important role in the changing," Lin said. The works reflect the internal and external impact of menopause on mothers.

Voluptuous figures of middle-aged women are the main roles in the exhibition. Their heads appear in abstract form

or are removed, leaving their interconnected the animal and plant. In the exhibition, all the models are pausal mothers," Lin said on the heavier side of

## Beijing Dance troupe tests the limits

By He Jiamwei

From August 11 to 16, BeijingDance/LDTX, a Beijing dance troupe, is back to present a week of thrilling performances, featuring two different programs: *Trailing the Sun*, a cutting-edge contemporary premiere, and the troupe's classics, an evening of choreography from its internationally-acclaimed repertoire.

As a founding dancer of the troupe, Xu Yiming, the choreographer of *Trailing the Sun*, attempts to develop the possible limits of the dancer in the performance in which each dancer engages in a new style. One that defines individual movement: muscular becomes tender, fast becomes slow and air-borne becomes grounded.

By pushing the confines of the dancer and choreographer, *Trailing the Sun* is a uniquely innovative, challenging and contemporary work.

The troupe Classics is a collection

of four different works, which demonstrate its true scope of perspective and technique. The Cold Dagger excerpt is a climactic 10-minute version of the full-evening's work set to a beautiful score by Polish composer Henryk Gorecki.

*The Eagle*, featuring four male dancers, is choreographed by a native of Inner-Mongolia. The mesmerizing piece investigates the mystical region of China fraught with history and tradition.

The six-minute October adopts Ilyich Tchaikovsky's music "October," and describes a couple's daily life.

The final piece, set to Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, premiered in 1993, signifying the dawn of a new era in music. This music has inspired many western choreographers, and now BeijingDance/LDTX's Chinese choreographers offer their unique version, *All River Red*.

The work reflects how contemporary dance has been developing in the 20th century in China. *All River Red* shows a not-so-smooth fusion of east meeting west, but a direct and violent confrontation between those adhering to tradition and those aspiring to innovation.

### Trailing the Sun

Where: Oriental Pioneer Theater, 3/F, northeast of the Oriental Plaza, 8-2 Dongdan Santiao, Dongcheng District

When: August 11, 13 and 15, 7:30 pm

Cost: 150 yuan per person, 60 yuan for per student

Tel: 6405 4842

### BeijingDance/LDTX Classics: The Cold Dagger (excerpt), The Eagle (excerpt), October and All River Red

Where: Oriental Pioneer Theater

When: August 12, 14 and 16, 7:30 pm

Cost: 150 yuan per person, 60 yuan for per student



Trailing the Sun, BeijingDance/LDTX's new program in August

## Stage Concert

### Night of Mozart – S. Mozart Classics

Who: China Film

Where: Zhongshan

Zhongshan Park, Do

When: August 1,

Admission: 20-10

Tel: 6559 8306

### Concert by Liu Yang

Who: China Film

Where: Beijing M

Jie, Xicheng

When: August 4,

Admission: 10-10

Tel: 6605 7006

### My Heart will Go On

### cert of Film Music

Who: China Film

Where: Zhongshan

Zhongshan Park, Do

When: August 5,

Admission: 20-10

Tel: 6559 8306



featuring 12 artists, the impact on individuality and economy. It is of introducing a new emergence of China. ery, 13 Dongfeng Art Nan Lu, Chaoyang 5, daily except Mon.

Admission: Free  
Tel: 8401 2377, 8401 5810  
**Stone Youth – Zhang Ning Solo Exhibition**  
Where: PIFO New Art Studios, B-07 Beijing International Art Camp, Suojia-cun, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang  
When: till Aug 25, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6437 1792

**I See the World**  
Where: Duke Contemporary Art Place, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: till Aug 24, daily except Mon.  
10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6433 1894

**If Only Fish Could Fly**  
Where: Pebeo Space, Red T Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: till Aug 31, daily except Mon.  
10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8911 5763

**Artists through the eyes of a critic**  
Where: SZ Art Center, 2 Jiuxianqiao

Lu, Chaoyang  
When: till Aug 31, daily except Mon.  
10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6435 9719  
**Guanghua Lu 2008**  
Where: Michael Schultz Gallery Beijing, 319 East End Art, Caochangdi, Chaoyang  
When: till Aug 26, daily except Mon.  
10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6432 5093

**Beijing 008 – Qin Yufen Art Project**  
Where: Today Art Museum, Building 4, Pingod Community, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang  
When: till Aug 9, daily except Mon.  
10 am – 9 pm  
Tel: 5876 0500

**Chinese Memory – 5000 Years Culture**  
Where: Capital Museum China, 16 Fuxingmen Wai Dajie, Xicheng  
When: till Oct 7, daily except Mon. 10 am – 5 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6339 3339



Aura Gallery



Beijing Wan Fung Art Gallery



Duke Contemporary Art Place



Mother's No 12, 2008, polyurea, silk and thread thread



A scene of from Mother's

ng postures that sug-  
sted relationship with  
world. "In this exhi-  
of works are meno-  
said. "Being a little  
as one of the require-

ments in choosing models," Lin added.  
Though a representative of female  
artists of Chinese contemporary art, Lin  
said she felt nervous when unveiling  
her new works. "I'll continue perfecting  
them according to comments received

for another three to five months until I  
reach the final version."  
Lin named the exhibition *Mother's*, rep-  
resenting the possession of the mother,  
which expresses the feminine characteris-  
tics of people and things, and also recalls

the process of raising a child. However,  
*Mother's* is "Ma De" in Chinese translation,  
a curse word with a derogatory meaning, as  
"damn it." The subtle ambiguity reflects an  
emotive frustration and also presents views  
with a greater platform for interpretation.

**Mother's**  
Where: Space C, Long March Space,  
4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until  
August 24  
Tel: 6438 7107, 6431 7799

**Symphony Concert of**  
Symphony Orchestra  
an Music Hall, inside  
ngcheng  
7:30 pm  
00 yuan

**Large-scale Chinese Music Concert –  
Ariose Years**  
Who: China National Opera and Dance  
Drama Company  
Where: Haidian Theater, 28 Zhong-  
guancun Dajie, Haidian  
When: August 5-7, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 50-580 yuan  
Tel: 6254 6839

**Erhu Concert by Master Song Fei and  
her students**  
Who: Song Fei and her students  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside  
Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: August 6, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 20-100 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

**Medea Two by Omada Dance Company**  
Who: Omada Dance Company  
Where: National Grand Theater Music  
Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of  
the People  
When: August 1-2, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 100-1,000  
Tel: 6655 0000

**The Masters of Voices – Assemble**

**under the Five-Ring Flag**  
Who: Jose Carrera, Kiri Te Kanawa,  
Olga Borodina, Dai Yuqiang and Liao  
Changyong  
Where: National Grand Theater Music  
Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of  
the People  
When: August 4-5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 480-3,280 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

**Along the River During Qingming  
Festival – Bamboo Flute Concert**  
Who: Zhang Weiliang  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside  
Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: August 10, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 10-100 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

**Concert by Cincinnati Pops Orchestra**  
Who: Cincinnati Pops Orchestra  
Where: National Grand Theater Music  
Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of  
the People  
When: August 9, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

**Music Queen of Asia Sumi Jo  
Solo Concert**  
Who: Sumi Jo  
Where: National Grand Theater Music  
Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of  
the People  
When: August 11, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

**Three Star Tenors Concert**  
Who: Marcello Giordani, Salvatore Lic-  
itra and Ramon Vargas  
Where: Great Hall of the People, on the  
west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng  
When: August 13, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,200 yuan  
Tel: 5165 6039

**Dance  
My Dream V**  
Who: China Disabled People's Per-  
forming Art Troupe  
Where: National Grand Theater Music  
Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of  
the People  
When: August 10-12, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-980 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000  
**La Sylphide and the third act of Napoli**  
Who: Royal Danish Ballet  
Where: National Grand Theater Music  
Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of  
the People  
When: August 9-10, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

**Trailing the Sun**  
Who: Beijing LDTX Dance Company  
Where: Beijing Oriental Pioneer The-  
ater, 8-2 Santiao, Dongdan, Dongcheng  
When: August 11-15, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 60-150 yuan  
Tel: 5166 4511

**Sky Dance**  
Who: Kook Soo-ho Didim Dance Com-  
pany  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside  
Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: August 15, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 100-880 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

(By Li Jing)  
Continued on page 14 ...



... continued from page 13

## Book

### The Last Days of Old Beijing – booktalk by Mike Meyer

Long term Beijing resident and journalist Mike Meyer lived in a hutong in Dazhalanr for two years to experience hutong life as an insider, as he perceived that way of life to be in rapid decline. Receiving glorious reviews from fellow China watchers, journalists and the publishing world in general, his fascinating insights are a must read.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang  
When: August 5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan (includes a drink)  
Tel: 6586 9507



Flying Plan

## Nightlife

### The Verse – Funkytown Mini Concert

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: August 2, 9 pm  
Admission: 40 yuan  
Tel: 6404 2711

### Flying Plan

Where: Mao Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng  
When: August 2, 9 pm  
Cost: 40 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5080

### Frozen Street, Guodong

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: August 3, 9 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan  
Tel: 6404 2711

### Feel You with Heart

Where: New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

When: August 3, 9:30 pm  
Admission: 20-30 yuan  
Tel: 8448 3335

### Sambasia

Where: Mao Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng  
When: August 3, 9:30 pm  
Cost: 40 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5080

### Summer Fling

Where: Q Bar, 6/F, Eastern Hotel, Sanlitun Corner of Suanlitun Nan Lu and Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang  
When: August 7, 10 pm  
Cost: free admission  
Tel: 6595 9239



Yaji Mountain

## Outdoors

### Yaji Mountain Temple Circuit

There are three temples in Yaji Mountain. The first one, located at the foot of the mountain, was originally built in the Ming Dynasty. The other two are on the top of the mountain, one built during the Tang Dynasty and the other during the Qing Dynasty. The Qing Dynasty temple was once used by the Qing royalty.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)  
When: August, 8 am – 5 pm  
Cost: 350 yuan  
Tel: 13910025516

(reservations are essential)

### Ancient City Xi'an

Located at the eastern end of the Silk Road, Xi'an is home to some of the most spectacular sights in China. The city is surrounded by a well-preserved protective wall which was reconstructed during the Ming Dynasty. The Mausoleum of Qinshihuang and his Terracotta Army, regarded as one of the seven world wonders, is located 40 kilometers to the east of the city.

When: Take overnight train to Xi'an on August 1 and fly back on August 3  
Cost: 3,200 yuan  
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(reservations are essential)

### Xuanwu Hutong and Courtyard House Pedicab Tour

The trip tours the hutongs and courtyards in Xuanwu District, where you will see authentic alleys and courtyard houses, experience the real life of Beijingers and have the chance to chat with residents. You will see the impact of rapid development on the lifestyle and living environment of residents.

Where: meet at China Culture Center, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 1, 9 am – 3:30 pm  
Cost: 400 yuan  
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(reservations are essential)

### Horseback-riding adventure to Daxinganling Forest and Bayingcagang Grassland

On this trip, you will ride horses through the virgin forest, still teeming with wildlife into the Bayingcagang Grassland. On horseback, it takes about two hours to reach the grassland, where you will experience the real life of these nomadic people.

When: Fly to Hailaer on August 8 and fly back to Beijing on August 12  
Cost: 8,900-10,600 yuan  
Tel: 8621 6278

(reservations are essential)



Horseback-riding adventure

## Folk Activities

### Hands-on: Accumulated Fabric Art

Accumulated Fabric Art is a traditional form of fabric art dating back to the Tang Dynasty. Emperor Qianlong in the Qing Dynasty once enjoyed the art and created it for his mother.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 1, 9 am – noon  
Cost: 150 yuan  
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

### Hands-on: Chinese Knot Earrings

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 2, 2-5 pm  
Cost: 120 yuan  
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

### Ink & Wash Painting Class

Chinese painting is one of the oldest continuous artistic traditions in the world. Ink and wash painting is an East Asian type of brush painting. It is also known as wash painting.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 4, 7:30-9:30 pm  
Cost: 120 yuan  
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)



Accumulated Fabric Art



Chinese Knot Earrings

### Flying Plan

Where: Mao Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng  
When: August 2, 9 pm  
Cost: 40 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5080

### Frozen Street, Guodong

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng  
When: August 3, 9 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan  
Tel: 6404 2711

### Feel You with Heart

Where: New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang  
When: August 3, 9:30 pm  
Admission: 20-30 yuan  
Tel: 8448 3335

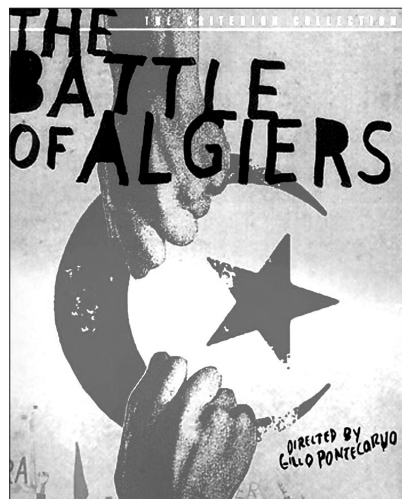
### Sambasia

Where: Mao Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng  
When: August 3, 9 pm,  
Cost: 40 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5080

### Summer Fling

Where: Q Bar, 6/F, Eastern Hotel, Sanlitun Corner of Suanlitun Nan Lu and Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang  
When: August 7, 10 pm  
Cost: free admission  
Tel: 6595 9239

(By Li Jing)



The Battle of Algiers

## Movie

### Les Randonneurs a Saint-Tropez

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 1-3, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 10-20 yuan  
Tel: 6553 2627

### The Battle of Algiers

Where: Lanyang Bookstore, 3 Shuimo Xinqu, Haidian

When: August 1, 7:30 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6265 5069

### The Shawshank Redemption

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyuan, Xicheng

When: August 6, 9 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6617 3231

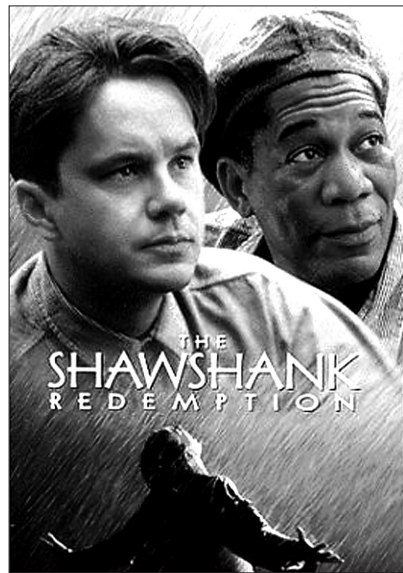
### 199 Lives – The Travis Pastrana Story

Where: Beijing Channel Zero Media, 7G Building 4 Meilin Garden, 33 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian

When: August 7, 7 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8855 0622  
Nightlife

### The Verse – Funkytown Mini Concert

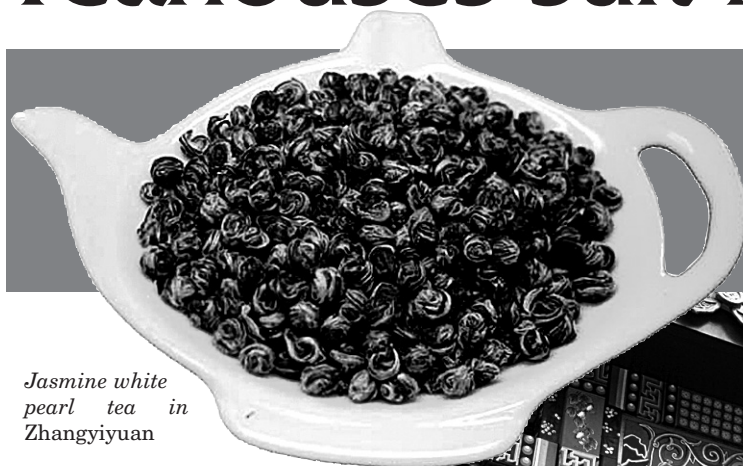
Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng  
When: August 2, 9pm  
Admission: 40 yuan  
Tel: 6404 2711



The Shawshank Redemption



# Teahouses suit life to a tea in China



Jasmine white  
pearl tea in  
Zhangyiyuan

By Gan Tian

Tea will always be the signature of China and a big part of its national character. Beijing offers teas in a myriad of flavors from all over the country. *Beijing Today* takes you downtown, walks you through the most famous teahouses and markets, and equips you with some valuable tips on tea, if you are inclined to slow down for a few minutes and enjoy a cup.

## Century-old store for tea lovers

By Jin Zhu

Zhangyiyuan was founded by Zhang Changyi in 1900. The name makes use of the phrase Yi Yuan because it marks the start of a new year when everything looks new and fresh. It has 32 chain stores covering mostly the northern areas of the country.

Its main store is located in Dashila'er Jie, which is famous for maintaining many original and traditional Beijing features. Stepping into the store, you can smell a full-bodied tea aroma. Zhangyiyuan's tea is characterized by crystal-clear liquid, dense taste, fragrant flavor and a lingering after taste. Yang Jing, Zhangyiyuan's public relations staff, mentioned that all kinds of tea are collected from tea-producing areas all over the country. After that, they are processed in accordance with the taste of Beijing residents.

You can find almost every familiar kind of tea in the main store, such as scented tea, green tea, Wulong and Pu'er. "Generally speaking, good tea has a light color and a full-bodied flavor. You can smell and sample the tea first," a resident living nearby said. As always, the main store offers different kinds of packing, including Beijing-style traditional packing and novelty-style packing.

There is only one thing you must remember. If your tea is packed in a Beijing-style paper bag, you had better put it into a pot to keep it dry.

**Zhangyiyuan**

Where: 22 Dashila'er Jie, Xuanwu District

Open: 8:30 am - 8 pm

Tel: 6303 4004



Photos provided by Zhangyiyuan

## A portrait of Beijing teahouses and markets

By Gan Tian

Beijing is the hottest tea city in the world.

While some are inclined to sit back and enjoy a fragrant tea at home, many also love to go out to teahouses where one can enjoy the tea and companionship. Over time, teahouses have become a big part of Chinese life and culture. Beijing alone is host to 500 kinds of tea houses.

Door attendants in qipao welcome people to the Tianqiao Le teahouse. Its round wooden pillars support the protruding balconies fashioned in ancient Chinese style. Black and white documentary photos of old Beijing folk artists

line white walls.

In front of a small stage, ancient-style rectangular tables and chairs occupy most of the teahouse. This could have been a typical place a hundred years ago, a place our great-great-grandfathers might have been found sipping tea and eating snacks while watching Peking opera. Today, it is only a scene people see in the movies.

Tea drinking preferences have obvious geographical influences. Beijing and the nearby north prefers a jasmine tea. In the past, northern residents chose fragrant jasmine tea to neutralize the unpleasant smell and taste of their drinking water.

During the last century, 90 percent of the tea consumed in Beijing was jasmine tea. That figure has now dropped to 60 percent. The dwindling market share is a result of improved water quality and the successful marketing of green, oolong and other specialty teas over the past 10 years. Green tea consumption has risen significantly. Most consumers drink green tea in the summer and oolong in the autumn. Pu'er tea has become a hot item with consumers willing to pay top prices for expensive collector's selections.

So this summer, when in China, do as the Chinese do. Sit down and enjoy a lovely cup of tea in Beijing.

7

Debate



Peking Opera goes back to school

Rewards for relinquishing seats



Two kidney transplants rejected by regulations

Eastern and western viewpoints meet here



# 洋腔论见

文化差异的碰撞与融合



Film shoot paralyzes city

Transformer substation breeds controversy

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7

Debate

BEIJING TODAY

15  
Shopping

Editors: Yu Shanshan Gan Tian Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY



... continued from page 15



Photos by Venus Lee

# The joys of tea



## Maliandao, the tea street

By Venus Lee

In ancient China, tea was transported by merchants on the Ancient Tea-Horse Road to India and onward. This road, a symbol of history and culture, has vanished. In today's Beijing, Maliandao carries on its spirit by selling tea and spreading the culture.

What will impress you most on this street is that the diversity of choices, with thousands of tea merchants from all over. The street has become the biggest tea distributing center in North China, and it accounts for one tenth of the mainland's tea-dealing revenue bringing in over 1.3 billion yuan.

According to Zhan Hongmei, a shopkeeper, besides many independent tea stores, there are eight large-scale tea stores on the street, such as Maliandao Tea City, Jingma, Jingmi, Jingdinglong and Chayuan Tea City. The shopkeepers in those stores are mainly from Fujian Province, and most possess their own tea gardens.

Sample first, bargain later is their way to do business. It is not easy to differentiate good tea with just your eyes or nose, so the taste test is the ultimate way to draw a valid conclusion.

Throughout the street, both modern tea shops and ancient-styled storefronts all emanate with a full-bodied smell. Not only can customers taste the teas for free, but Chinese calligraphy and painting, tea sets and antiques can be appreciated there as well.

By showing the concentrated tea culture, the street tries to educate visitors from all over the world to the Chinese traditional tea culture.

### Maliandao Tea Street

Where: 11, Maliandao Road, Xuanwu District  
Open: 9 am - 7 pm  
Tel: 6326 7641

By Venus Lee

Tenfu Mingcha is a well-known brand of tea store which has 60 branches in Beijing. The one located in Guomao is the most distinctive and exquisite. It opened at the end of the 1999, and its name was changed to Cha For Tea last year in order to create a new image for Tenfu Mingcha. Cha For Tea means enjoying tea in Chinese. It is the first Tenfu branch to use this new name.

The store contains various kinds of famous teas, tasty food-stuffs and exquisite tea sets.

The 813 Chawang, Gaoshan Chawang and Alishan Wulongcha were served at the 1997, 2001 and 2005 APEC Summits held respectively in Vancouver, Shanghai and Busan. But some Westerners are fond of well-shaped Jasmine tea which looks like artwork, Zhang Zhaoling, the store manager, said. Besides tea, the store provides tea-flavored snacks, like stuffed with tea, moon cakes.

Tea utensils are a very important component of tea culture. Cha For Tea only provides top-of-the-line tea sets which are made of Zipaoyudai-shi, a kind of jade ore. Due to their refined shape and excellent quality these tea sets have become collector's items and are always in short supply.

Products are all from the Tenfu Group, the world's biggest tea comprehensive company, which covers production, processing, marketing, research, culture, education and tours.

### Tenfu Mingcha

Where: EB102, B1, China world Shopping Mall, Jianwaidajie, Chaoyang district.

Open: 9 am - 9:30 pm  
Tel: 6505 6189

## Guandian, a new cup of tea

By Milo Lee

Guandian Tea City is located at Guandian Ladies' Fashion Street, one of Beijing's new shopping areas in the north. Since its opening three months ago, this newcomer has attracted thousands of customers, making it a hotspot for tea-lovers in the neighborhood.

In Yayuncun, or the Asian Games Village area, the tea consumption market has always been a blind spot. Ancient people found that tea leaves helped flavor the flat taste of the water and they boiled it to prevent disease. After thousands of years tea remains the favorite beverage in Chinese households.

Guandian Tea City maintains the same age-old traditions. Being Yayuncun's only high-end tea and tea utensils selling center, everything you need can be found here and it does not matter whether you like West Lake Dragon Well tea or Menghai Pu'er Tea.

Guandian Tea City has 50 tea shops. To ensure high quality products and low prices, most of these shops are direct distributors from where the tea leaves were first picked and manufactured. This tea market's ambiance is elegant yet simple, with traditional Chinese decorations. In order to promote tea culture, a special tea party is being held at Guandian every Saturday and Sunday from now until August 31, which includes a tea ceremony and tea appreciation activities.

Guandian stands out as a better choice for foreigners mainly because of its excellent

location. The famous National Stadium, the Bird's Nest, is only 800 meters from Guandian, the Celebrity International Grand Hotel and Beijing Continental Grand Hotel are just around the corner and Beichen Shopping Center plus dozens of fashion shops and restaurants are also located in this area. If you come to Beijing to watch the Olympics, live in one of these hotels and love drinking tea, then you are in for a treat. After a fantastic Olympic event and a nice dinner at the hotel, you probably will want to take a leisurely night walk and explore the city a little. What better experience than wandering into this tea market where a shop owner offers you a freshly-brewed cup of Oolong tea. Life does not get any better than this.

However, if you happen to come to Beijing with your girlfriend or your wife, you may want to hide your wallet and avoid this place. Above Guandian Tea City is a two-story shopping center catering to women only, the Guandian Ladies' Fashion Street shopping mall, which sells all kinds of fashionable clothes and shoes, and has several hair salons plus a husband or boyfriend depository where the ladies can dump their partners while they run off to spend at will!

### Guandian Tea City

Where: B1 Guandian Ladies' Fashion Street, 3 Huizhonglu, Chaoyang District, (200 meters east of Beichen Shopping Center)

Open: 10 am - 9:30 pm  
Tel: 6493 3533



Photo by Milo Lee



# Southern menus an ethnic melting pot

By Gan Tian

Yunnan has China's greatest concentration of ethnic minorities and some incredibly varied cuisines. Some of its most important ingredients come from the wild. *Beijing Today* hunts down several of the best Yunnan restaurants in town for this week's guide.

## Flavor from the Southern Silk Road

By Zhang Dongya

The Chama Gudao, also called the Ancient Tea-Horse Road, was once known as the Southern Silk Road. The long and winding route begins in Sichuan and Yunnan Province and ends in India, south of the Himalayas. It was used in ancient China to trade tea and horses.

South Silk Road, a restaurant named after the famed route, boasts "the Best Yunnan cuisine" in Beijing. It has three branches, the biggest of which is in Soho New Town, Chaoyang District.

Opened by a renowned Beijing-based artist, Fang Lijun, the restaurant's loft-style space has an air of minimalism. Fang's works are shown on a special shelf at the entrance of the restaurant, and it also collects other artists, like Wang Guangyi, whose famous paintings hang on the wall.

It serves authentic Yunnan cuisine, like Crossing the Bridge Rice Noodles, rice wine and pot chicken. Frog bark is a kind of bark grown in Chongshan Mountain of Yunnan, which tastes crisp. Sausage, a little smoked but still soft, with Xujiadu flavor is also highly recommended by diners.

Dishes come in small portions, but are beautiful and scrumptious. Tea is a special spice in many of the flavorful dishes. Most of the materials and ingredients are collected and transported from Yunnan locations.

It features a variety of edible wild herbs and covers flavors of several ethnic minority nations like Bai, Naxi, Dai and Yi. All the wait staff is from Yunnan and serves dishes while wearing the traditional costume of the Bai ethnic group.

International credit cards are accepted, and delivery and parking are available.

The restaurant will open its new branch at Joy City on August 8.

### Soho New Town Branch

Where: F3, Bldg D, Soho New Town, 88 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District  
Open: 10:30 am – 10:30 pm  
Tel: 8580 4286

### Shichahai Branch

Where: 12-13, 19A Shichahai Qianhai Xiyuan, Xicheng District  
Open: 10:30 am – 10:30 pm  
Tel: 6615 5515

### Wangfujing Branch

Where: F5, 138, Sun Dong'an, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District  
Open: 10:30 am – 10:30 pm  
Tel: 6526 8437

Photo provided by Chama Gudao



Toasted sliced meat



Crossing the Bridge Rice Noodles

## Dishes from the southwest corner

By Gan Tian

Yunnan cuisine, though not well known in the West, is one of the best regional eating experiences in China. Many dishes borrow hot, spicy flavors from neighboring Sichuan. Others, influenced by immigrants from Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Guangdong provinces, reflect the subtle, rounded taste of eastern and southeast cuisine. The year-round availability and variety of vegetables provides a limitless menu.

The province's cooking techniques rely on a ceramic pot – a squat, round, lidded vessel with an internal spout, or chimney, that allows steam to enter and circulate but not to escape. Chicken soup cooked in such a pot makes a superior stock entirely from steam and natural juices. The dish, called Steam Pot Chicken, or *qiguoji*, tops the list of Yunnan specialties. The dish frequently includes medicinal ingredients, such as ginseng, herbs and dried Himalayan caterpillars, to enhance flavor and promote health.

Important dishes include Pineapple Rice, or Boluo Fan, found in Xishuangbanna and other Dai areas, and Guoqiao mixian, "Crossing the Bridge Noodles," Yunnan's best known dish. The region's Pu-erh tea, traditionally grown in Simao, is the typical drink. Other treats include shipping tofu, Erkuai, a refined and compressed rice cake, goat's milk cheese and cow milk cheese.

## Stories behind the famous flavor

By Jin Zhu

Crossing the bridge rice noodles, Guoqiao Mixian, a classic Yunnan dish, is getting more and more popular in Beijing. It sounds simple enough – a bowl of boiling chicken broth, a handful of rice and a mixture of meat and vegetables – but there is a beautiful legend behind the taste.

During the Qing Dynasty, a man lived on the shores of South Lake in Yunnan. He sat and read each day at the pavilion in the middle of the lake and his wife always took him his meals. But by the time he took a break from his books, the food would be cold. One day, his wife cooked a hen and took the chicken and soup to him. To her surprise, the pot remained warm even when she got there. She realized the layer of chicken oil on the top helped trap the heat. The dish was named for her delivery method.

One of the best places to try the dish in Beijing is Qiangxiangyuan Restaurant. "Preparing a steaming, hot chicken broth is the first step. The waitress then carries a tray to the table, including the soup, a plate of cold rice noodles and a variety of uncooked eggs, vegetables and thinly-sliced meats," Tang Kun, the manager, said. Depending on the version of the dish ordered, the meat may be chicken, ham or kidney. More expensive variants use snake, fish or squid. The waitress tosses the ingredients into the broth and they cook immediately.

Since the soup is served at above 80 degrees, do not be too anxious to eat – you might burn your lips or tongue.

### Qiangxiangyuan Restaurant

Where: 201, Wangfujing Street, Dongcheng District  
Open: 9 am – 9:30 pm  
Tel: 6527 3216

Photo provided by Qiangxiangyuan Restaurant





A glance at Back to Lijiang Restaurant

Photo by Venus Lee

## Your lucky number is eight

By Gan Tian

Zhongbalou Yunnan Restaurant gets its name from its address. Its first restaurant is located at No. 8 Building in Dong Sanlitun, or Zhongbalou in Chinese. Its excellent performance allowed it to open a second restaurant in Zhongguancun. While not that area's No. 8, the name was retained for recognition.

The chain specializes in Yunnan cuisine, and all its ingredients are transported by air from Yunnan Province. In terms of flavor and environment, the restaurant employs a mix and match style. The Zhongguancun branch offers the rare experience of watching the afternoon sun or stars while eating in the open. The Sanlitun branch, on the other hand, serves its dishes in a more dark and dim environment suitable for savoring solitude and quiet.

Heisanduo, a dish with three sliced ingredients, does not look that appealing when it arrives at the table. It is all black and looks sticky. An ugly appearance does not stop it being delicious. After taking a spoon, the diner will find it is a little salty but also sweet. The strong wild vegetable flavor rushes from your mouth into your throat. It is said this dish becomes more delicious when you eat it with a bowl of Yunnan rice.

No Coca Cola, no tea, but rice wine is the necessary drink here. The drink is served in a half-meter long cup. The pouring of another cup is a big show in the restaurant, and the wine's sweet-and-sour flavor hangs in the air afterward.

### Zhongbalou Sanlitun Branch

Where: Building 8, Dong Sanlitun, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6417 9395

### Zhongbalou Zhongguancun Branch

Where: R17, Walking Street, Zhongguancun Plaza, Haidian District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5172 1729



Wild vegetables

## Restaurant takes diners back to Lijiang

By Venus Lee

Lijiang is a peaceful and beautiful place far from the pollution and noise of Yunnan Province's big cities. If you cannot make it to the southern paradise, you can still take in and appreciate its cuisine at Back to Lijiang. The restaurant's atmosphere is completed with soft, fair-sounding Yunnan tunes and a simple but beautiful interior design.

Liu Huakun, the owner, said all elements in the restaurant originated from Lijiang. The head cook and waiters all come from Lijiang, so the dishes are cooked and served in authentic Dai and Bai ethnic style. The most popular dishes are pineapple rice, which cost 22 yuan, and rice wine, which cost 15 yuan per bucket or 5 yuan per glass.

Kaoluofeiyu, Muguaji, Shousiji and Shangri-La Niuganba come highly recommended by diners. Generally speaking, each dishes cost from 20 to 50 yuan. The restaurant was named one of the 10 most popular in the city according to a public survey.

The whole restaurant emanates art and inspiration from Lijiang. All the ingenious adornments, such as Dongba crockery, are taken from Lijiang, Liu said. Although he is not a native, he remains a loyal Lijiang enthusiast. He makes yearly trips to acquire new pieces to add to the restaurant and enhance its atmosphere.

The walls are decorated with photos of Liu on his visits to Lijiang or customers on their visits to the restaurant during a theme event. There are many paper scraps inscribed with blessings and well wishes on each table.

### Back to Lijiang

Where: 100 meters westward Lianxiang Qiao, Haidian District

Open: 10 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6213 1898

Website: backtolijiang.com

## Other restaurants

### Dianku

Where: 1 Xiaohuangzhuang Lu, Heping Xi Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8428 5435

### Yizuoyiwang Lijiang Theme Restaurant

Where: 1 Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8454 0086

### Ledu Private Dishes

Where: 57 Jiaodaokou Bei Santiao, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am – 2 pm, 4:30 pm – 10 pm

Tel: 6402 7482

### Zhong Ba Lou

Where: Building 8, Dong Sanlitun, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6413 0629

### Yunteng Hotel Restaurant

Where: Yunnan Province Office, Yunteng Hotel, Building 7, East District, Donghuashi Beili, Chongwen District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6711 3322 ext 7105

### Dianxiang Yicu

Where: 16 Zhixin Lu, Haidian District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8237 3171

(By Gan Tian)

## Subtropical breeze in the Guesthouse

By Gan Tian

Its name may seem a little puzzling, but those who understand a little Chinese language can figure it out – it is the street address. Jia 21, located in Yayuncun, is not as big as many of the area's famous restaurants, but it has its own special Yunnan and Guizhou taste.

Decorated in subtropical style, the restaurant is full of water, stones and greenery.

Delicious Spare Rib (48 yuan), the most popular dish there, is a mouthwatering must for any customer. A glance at the dish is reminiscent of Yunnan and Guizhou's minority groups: black juice, green and red peppers and other colorful seasonings. The strong, spicy pork flavor excites the taste buds at once. The dish is even better with rice. Some diners like Francis Yang have reported feeling "pressure" when confronted by its immense portions. Be warned, it is a little salty.

Gao Minghan, the manager, said people enjoy the atmosphere more than the food. "We are just providing the atmosphere. It is a place to relax to soft music and enjoy the comfortable environment."

Customers often gripe that Yunnan restaurants are too noisy and crowded, but that is not the case at Jia. Gossip rarely travels further than the table at which it starts, making Jia 21 the best restaurant for lovers.

### Jia 21 Guesthouse

Where: 21, Section A, Bei Tucheng Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 9 am – 11 pm

Cost: 80 yuan per person

Tel: 6489 5066



Pineapple rice



# Experience mystery in a summer resort

Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province and the largest city in northeast China, is well-known for its Ice & Snow Festival in winter. However, its mild summers have made it a great travel destination when it is time to beat the heat.

Shenyang may lack the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Dalian, but it serves as an important transport and industrial hub for the region. It is a well-known historical city with important links to Chinese culture, and has both natural and historical attractions to provide an enjoyable travel experience.



## Shenyang Imperial Palace

As the only existing royal palace in China outside of the Palace Museum in Beijing, the Shenyang Imperial Palace crests Shenyang's list of must-see attractions. The main structure of the palace was built in the 17th century when the first emperor of the Qing Dynasty Nurhachi was in power.

With a history of 400 years, the palace can be divided into three sections—the eastern section, the middle section and the western section. Each section boasts unique characteristics, the layout of which appears to be natural,

sublime and imposing. It is famous for its strong Man ethnic characteristics.

The palace hosts a huge collection of valuable Qing relics like swords, bows and arrows, imperial jade seals, jade bells and chimes. There are also many artworks on display, such as paintings, calligraphy, pottery, sculptures and lacquerware.

In 2004, it was listed by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site as an extension of the Forbidden City, and now it has also been turned into a museum.



*You can ride a bike to the top of the strange slope even without pedaling.*

## The Strange Slope

The Strange Slope, Guaipo, is located 30 kilometers from the northeastern point of Shenyang, and its uniqueness lies in its apparent violation of gravity.

If you stop a car at the foot of this slope, it will roll up to the top of the slope without any outside force. If you ride a bike, it will quickly slip to the top without pedaling, while you have to ride hard to get from the top to the bottom of the slope.

The slope descends eastwards from its western peak. It is 80 meters long and 15 meters wide.

In 1990, the discovery of the Strange Slope in Shenyang drew attention worldwide. Its fame continues to spread as visitors from home and abroad flock to see this rare sight.

Experts and scholars have attempted to discern its mystery. Scholars commonly attribute this phenomenon to magnetic fields and optical illusions. Owing to the lack of evidence for a solid explanation, the slope is still regarded as a mystery.

Together with the Strange Slope, two other



*The Imperial Palace in Shenyang is an attraction similar to the Forbidden City.*

sights Xiangshan and Wongding, comprise the "Three Mysteries." Xiangshan is located on a hillside 100 meters away from the Strange Slope. When one stomps on the hillside, he will hear a loud sound resonating from the earth below. Its name, Xiangshan, means a hill which produces a heavy sound. Wongding is another hilltop located close by. Similarly, its name describes the sound which results from a wooden hammer or a stone hitting the ground.



*Xinhu is the main attraction in Qipanshan, not only for tourists, but also birds.*

## Qipanshan Resort

Located in the east of Shenyang City, Qipanshan is a well-known place to experience a real winter, because its scenic area is the home of the Shenyang International Ice and Snow Festival.

However, it is also a good place to summer. The scenic area has hills, beautiful lakes and other amazing natural sights which will make you feel fresh and cool.

Outdoor escapes of every kind can be found at this

nature nest. Located just 20 minutes from downtown Shenyang, it is a virtual oasis of serenity. Xiuhu Lake, the area's main attraction, offers swimming, fishing and boating during the summer. The Huishan, Davangshan and Shirensan Mountains surround the lake and are favorite sites for hikers and campers. Boat rental shops, restaurants and lodges dot the landscape – a testament to the area's popularity with tourists.

CFP Photos

## Tips:

1. You can get to Shenyang by air, train or car. It is connected to Beijing by the Beijing-Shenyang six-lane Expressway, a 658-kilometer trip.
2. As one of the six co-host cities, Shenyang will host

12 football events during the Olympics at the Wulihe Stadium. The nearby Shenyang Wulihe Park is the biggest river bank park in the city. It features a music fountain, a man made sand beach, a big plaza and a birch forest.

(By Zhang Dongya)





# Getting a little closer to nature

By Jackie Zhang

It is hard to say when Chinese people first took an interest in vanilla. More and more lovers choose to take their wedding photos or even hold wedding ceremonies at lavender farms. It is a way to bring love closer to nature.

In suburbs around Beijing, there are many vanilla farms and other fields planted with sunflowers and corn.



The farm is decorated with lavender.

Photos by Lu Jiazuo

## Romance in lavender field

The Purple Paradise Farm, newly opened in Miyun District, is full of the scent of vanilla.

If you follow your nose, you can easily find the entrance of the farm. The farm opened last September for a test run, and reopened last weekend.

The farm grows 20 kinds of lavender, and many other kinds of vanilla. There are eight kinds of rosemary, 20 kinds of basil and nine kinds of thyme.

Lavender is a symbol of romance for youth who are "waiting for love." The huge lavender fields are like a purple ocean that waves in the wind.

The farms here operate from May to November, longer than those in Provence, France's famous lavender producer. The best period to see lavender fields is July to August.

The bar in the farm provides various vanilla drinks. You can buy dried vanilla to make your own

drinks at home.

At the farm, there are several wooden houses in which visitors can stay. From Monday to Friday, the room price is 280 yuan. On weekends, it costs 480 yuan. For people who like to camp in the open air, they can rent a tent for 80 yuan, or only 20 yuan if they bring their own. Mosquitoes will not kill the fun, because lavender and vanilla are natural repellents.

**Admission:** 20 yuan

**Getting there:**

Drive along Jingcheng Expressway and drive out at Miyun exit. Then, go along the 101 National Road. It is 2 kilometers from the Simatai Great Wall archway to the farm.

If taking a bus, the 980 Bus at Dongzhimen Bus Station is available. The ticket is 13 yuan. Get off at Miyun Station and then take a bus from Miyun to Simatai Great Wall. The 980 bus departs at 7:30 am, 11:30 am and 2:30 pm daily. The Miyun to Simatai regular bus starts off at 9 am, 1 pm and 4 pm. A ticket costs 4 yuan.

## A field corn labyrinth

In Miyun District, there is a cornfield labyrinth shaped like a map of China. Visitors can pick corn from different "provinces" and pick tomatoes in "Xinjiang and Tibet," a netizen who visited wrote about her experience.

"The corn is quite high. Once we enter the labyrinth, I felt like we were in a forest. Even tall people can't really see the landscape," she said.

Being lost in the maze is no reason to feel nervous. Tailing someone else is not always a good idea, because he may be just as lost as you. You can sit and wait for help to come, and pick corn or green peppers while you wait.

Everyone who enters the maze is given a treasure map. With careful analysis of the clues and surroundings, one can find his way to the maze's "Snow White," an employee who walks the maze wearing a beautiful court dress and carrying a basket of pink envelopes for the lucky draw. Visitors reported that the

journey through the labyrinth took about an hour and 40 minutes.

A flower maze, vegetable maze, pumpkin maze and sunflower maze are available in the area. Orchids, calliopsis and many plants have been used for building the flower maze. There are 16 kinds of sunflowers planted in the sunflower maze, which is shaped like a big "X."

**Admission:** 30 yuan

**Getting there:**

Take 987 bus from Dongzhimen and get off at Jinpoluo Station in Miyun District. You can also drive along Jingcheng Expressway and drive out from Miyun exit. Drive 12 kilometers toward the Miyun Reservoir Scenery Spot. The labyrinth is on the right.

### Tip:

Corn matures at the end of July. For exact opening time of the maze, please contact the tourism service center in Miyun District. Tel: 6902 7774



## Sunflower garden

The sunflower garden is getting popular this summer, but few know its exact location. Since it is a testing field of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, there is no special sign nor board to show people where the garden is.

Duxingqianli, a netizen, is a touring fan. He spent one day to drive to the garden and photograph sunflowers.

"Two minutes after I passed the Doudian Roundabout, a golden field was on my left. It was the sunflower garden. I almost missed it," he said.

In order to let visitors see the flowers, farmers built special roads between the fields. They did not know that the fields had been getting some media exposure and

drawing tourists.

Farmers are anxious about these fields as well. As more and more people come, some sunflowers are being destroyed, and some visitors are littering in the fields. Although they welcome visitors, they are worried about damage.

**Admission:** free

**Getting there:**

Drive along the Jingshi Expressway, from Beijing to Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, for 15 minutes to the Doudian exit. Follow 107 National Road. The sunflower garden is just past the Doudian Roundabout on the left.

CFP Photos



The biggest pumpkin in the garden is over 180 kilograms.

Photo by Wang Zhenlong

## Pumpkin Garden

The biggest pumpkin garden opened last week in Tongzhou District. It is the first agricultural-themed park established by government. It hosts 300 kinds of pumpkins in its exhibition hall.

The biggest pumpkin in the garden is more than 180 kilograms, and the smallest is as big as a match box. It also has desert pumpkins and those which look like lanterns. Besides watching and picking pumpkins, visitors can also taste a pumpkin dinner.

**Admission:** 69 yuan per person. If you buy three tickets at one time, the park will give you a box of pumpkins as a gift.

**Getting there:** 927 Bus and

938 Branch 1 Bus can take you to the park. Get off at

Yujiawu Station, and you will see obvious road signs showing you the direction of the park. A 300- to 400-meter walk is needed.

If you drive yourself, follow fifth Ring Road and get on the No 2 Jingjin Expressway (Beijing - Tianjin) via Huagong Bridge. Drive off the expressway at Yujiawu exit, turn right and drive 200 meters. If you drive from south Third Ring Road, get off at the Caiyu exit and drive onto the Jingjintang Expressway (Beijing - Tianjin), exit at Yujiawu exit. Then, turn left and drive about 1.5 kilometers to the pumpkin park.







ClarkMorgan Corporate Training

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# Handling Complaints

By Naomi Saunders

According to the International Customer Service Association (ICSA), 68 percent of customers will stop doing business with a company because of poor service. This fact is well-known by successful companies such as Apple, GE and Toyota, who put a great deal of effort and expense into creating a high-level customer service culture which permeates the company and drives their reputation and success. However, no company can ever avoid complaints altogether. Given regulations which are beyond our control and increasingly demanding customers who know they have a wide choice of goods and services, how can we handle those unavoidable complaints?

I was reminded of this question earlier this month when ClarkMorgan received a rare complaint at one of our marketing events. Our staff is well trained to solve problems before they turn into complaints by offering our customers a choice of viable solutions. I was surprised to receive an actual complaint regarding the service level of a group of staff who I believe to have an excellent attitude. After my initial shock and concern, I remembered that all was not lost. The ISCA also states that 95 percent of unsatisfied customers will do business again with a company if their problem is solved quickly and satisfactorily. I then saw this as a

chance to brush up on our skills in handling complaints.

The first thing to consider when facing a complaint is the reason for the grievance. Usually, people complain because of one of four reasons: faulty products, poor service, unavoidable problems or external factors. In this situation the complaint was made because a customer was unable to be seated at a very popular event. He was understandably annoyed that he could not enter the event and began to complain when asked to wait until a seat could be allocated to him. His protest was based on the seating situation, but perhaps exaggerated by external factors. The customer stated that he was late for the event as he had been stuck in traffic. All Beijing residents can understand and empathize with the frustration this can cause. When a customer challenges us, it is very easy to become defensive. In order to handle the situation well, we must take a moment to "put ourselves in their shoes." In other words, imagine how you would feel in the same situation. This will put you in the right frame of mind to deal with the complaint using the following five-step process.

The following steps can help you to calm an angry customer and change their dissatisfaction into pleasure.

Firstly, you have to ask open questions to allow the customer the chance to vent their frustration and tell you all the infor-

mation you need.

Secondly, you must show your understanding and willingness to address the problem at hand. Not only your words but your body language and tone of voice will play a major part in this process.

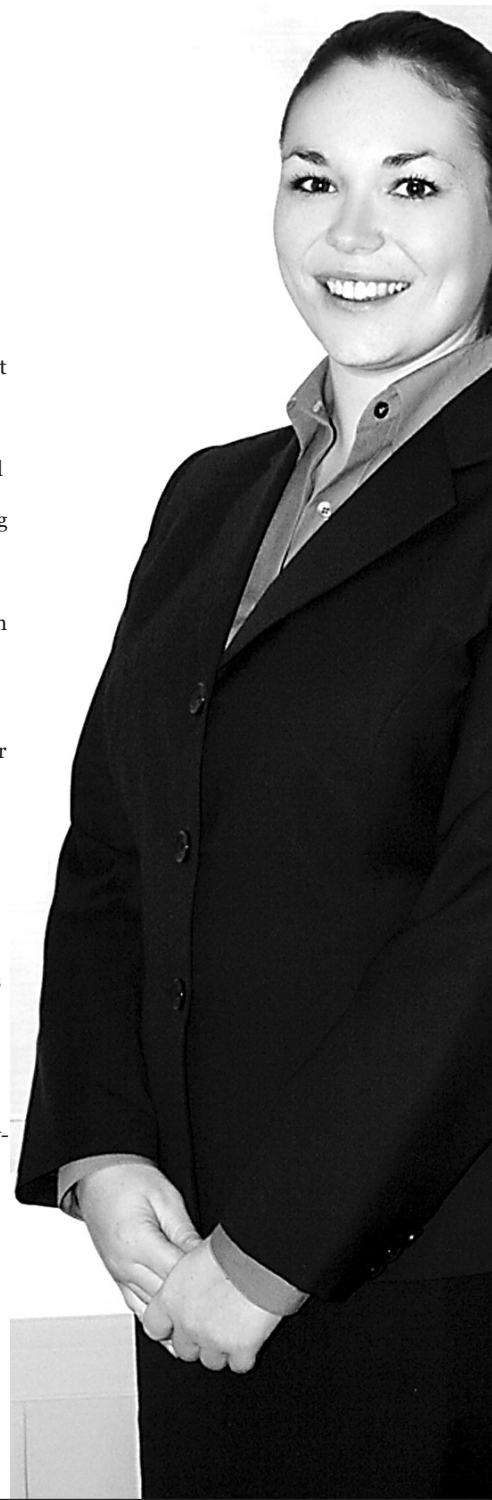
Thirdly, you must offer the customer two possible solutions to the problem and allow them to choose the solution. Often complaints are driven by a feeling of being "out of control." By letting the customer choose the solution you are giving them their power back.

Fourthly, it is essential to confirm with the customer which course of action they would like to take.

Finally you must follow up either verbally or in writing to ensure that satisfaction is guaranteed. A formal apology letter is a great step to let your customer know that their feedback is important to you and that action has been taken to resolve the problems they faced.

This five-step process can be used in face-to-face situations or over the telephone by any representative in any industry. By ensuring that your staff are well trained in handling complaints and having them take regular refresher courses you will guarantee that any complaints lead not to lost customers but to improvements in your processes and services.

Naomi Saunders is Beijing Marketing Manager of ClarkMorgan.



## Charity

### Shangri-La sells mooncakes for the kids

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts stages a China-wide charity mooncake sale from the end July to September 14. The aim is to raise 1.5 million yuan for its charity partner, Care for Children, an organization which helps rebuild children's lives through foster care, including those in need in Sichuan Province.

From Hohhot and Beijing to Guang-

zhou, 24 Shangri-La and Traders Hotels will join forces in this fundraising effort. Care for Children will use the donated funds to train local workers to support foster parents and orphans.

Four mooncakes in two assorted flavours, in red and white lotus paste, are packaged in specially-designed Shangri-La metal mooncake boxes in striking silver and red and are priced at 138 yuan each box. Forty yuan from every sale will be donated to Care for Children.

## Dining

### Grand Sunday brunch in the CBD

An open concept kitchen is being offered in the center of the restaurant serving both Asian delicacies as well as Western fare. The Sunday brunch includes seafood, BBQ, Sashimi and many delicious desserts from which to choose.

**Where:** CBD International Cuisine, Grand Millennium Beijing, Fortune Plaza, 7 East Third Ring Zhong Lu, Chaoyang

**When:** every Sunday

**Cost:** 248-348 yuan

**Tel:** 6530 9383

### Edible Olympic masterpieces

Here you can find masterpieces of exquisite Japanese restraint and carefully-wrought works of art, which are almost too beautiful to eat.

From a "Gold Medal" bento box, a sushi depiction of the Olympic torch, and an assortment of appetizers built to resemble the iconic "Bird's Nest", these are creative dishes not to be missed.

**Where:** Aria, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

**Cost:** 80-400 yuan (subject to a 15-percent service charge)

**Tel:** 6505 2266 ext 39

## Aviation



### Emirates presents new environment program

Emirates unveiled a series of new initiatives to improve the environmental performance of its operations worldwide.

The program, branded "Environment," includes the adoption of a new environmental policy for the Emirates Group, a global staff awareness campaign and internal goals to reduce energy consumption and waste, as well as increase recycling and training.

Emirates has also introduced a new section on its Web site that features information on the Group's management of environmental issues.

### Double Topbonus Miles for Air Berlin passengers

Frequent flyers on Air Berlin can earn double miles on their flights to Milan Malpensa from now until August 15. Passengers from Berlin-Tegel, Düsseldorf and Vienna will earn twice the regular number of topbonus miles for booked fares on direct flights to Milan Malpensa.

All members of Air Berlin's frequent flyer scheme need to do is present their topbonus card when checking in.

(By Li Jing)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to [lixiaojing@ynet.com](mailto:lixiaojing@ynet.com)



# The stars of Super Bar Street

By He Jianwei

Super Bar Street is the capital's third most prosperous one behind Sanlitun and Houhai. It is located half a kilometer east of the Yansha Bridge on East 3rd Ring Road.

The street, called Xing Ba Lu in Chinese, is easily accessible from the Yansha commercial area and the third Embassy District. It boasts more than 30 bars and restaurants. The quiet Mirror Lake, Jinghu, to its north adds to the street's charm.

If you know anything about Chinese rock stars, then you have already been here. Super Bar Street's bars are magnets for up and coming talents. The Get Lucky Bar especially is known as the cradle of Chinese rock. The bar occasionally hosts improv sessions by Cui Jian, the father of Chinese rock.

Unlike Houhai and Sanlitun, Super Bar Street is far from any residential area and rowdy nights rarely horn in on daily life. Its commercial location also provides ample parking space.



A glance at Pilipili

Photo by Rain Tian

## Come to the capital's only Kosher

By Jackie Zhang

Dini's is the first and the only kosher restaurant in Beijing. It offers a complete selection of Jewish, Chinese and Western food, as well as a sushi bar.

"Kosher" is the Hebrew word for "hygienic." To be considered kosher, food must meet the standards of Jewish law: what food Jewish people can eat and how it must be prepared.

Dini's has several *kip-pah* displayed on the front counter. The name is derived from the Hebrew word for "head covering," and Jews wear them to show their respect and reverence for God.

Pork is considered unclean. That which is unclean can never be kosher, so pig is

off the menu in Dini's. Beef, lamb and chicken make up the meats. Only fish with fins and scales are considered kosher, because these fish live in the upper or middle level in the aquatic ecosystem.

Many Jewish people come to Dini's for authentic kosher food. There are also many people who come to experience kosher dining.

During the Olympic Games, Dini's will be open 24 hours a day. In observance of Jewish tradition, it will be closed from Friday at 2:30 pm to Saturday at 9 pm.

### Dini's Kosher Restaurant

Open: 10 am - 10 pm  
Tel: 6461 6220  
Cost: 100-200 yuan



A live show in New Get Lucky Bar

## Chinese rock happens here

By He Jianwei

With a neat setup of cushioned, wicker chairs and candlelit tables arranged around an impressive central stage, Get Lucky Bar hosts Beijing's finest bands every night. Fans of local rock come to chug home-brewed beer and chow on Italian food.

From its beginning, the bar served as the testing ground for new talent and an intimate ven-

ue for China's biggest alternative rock idols.

Its stage proved to be a launch pad to fame and success as local bands became national sensations, giving voice to the frustrations, dreams and questions posed by a new generation.

Get Lucky's stage has witnessed the history of Chinese rock, including performances by Cui Jian, Tangchao Band, Dou Wei and Sec-

ondhand Rose.

The bar is the best venue to take in the capital's much-documented punk shows, often featuring the talents of Brain Failure and Hanging on the Box.

### New Get Lucky Bar

Open: 10 am - 2 am next day  
Tel: 8448 3335 (contact them for show information)

## Pili Pili is how you say chili

By Han Manman

The exotic-looking grass-roof building at the end of Super Bar Street is Pili Pili, the city's first African restaurant and bar. Pili Pili plays frequent host to African music and dance shows.

The bar's name comes from the Swahili word for chili, and it was selected as the restaurant name both for its easy pronunciation and

its ability to remind African expats of their homeland.

The flavor of Pili Pili's food will leave diners feeling like they've set foot in Africa for the first time. The menu includes flavors from Zanzibar, Tanzania and Kenya.

For an Egyptian meal, start with a bowl of lentil soup and an order of baba ghanoug, a salad made of roasted eggplant mixed

with tahini that is scooped up with pieces of fresh pita.

The last two Fridays of each month are "African Night," when African disc jockeys play traditional beats.

### Pili Pili

Open: 11 am - 2 am next day  
Tel: 8448 3372, 8448 4332  
Cost: 100 yuan per person



The African-style dining environment

Photo by Rain Tian

Continued on page 24...



... continued from page 23



## Chinese Cuisine

### Si Lu Yi Zhan (Grape Restaurant)

Open: 9:30 am – 11:30 pm  
Tel: 6465 6565

### Hot Fish Restaurant

Open: 11 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 8454 5147

### Jin Lin Fang

Open: 11 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 8454 0782

### Muyiju Roast Duck Restaurant

Open: 9:30 am – 10 pm  
Tel: 8455 1039

### Shudi Legend

Open: 10 am – 10 pm  
Tel: 8454 3276

### Mihuizhen Restaurant

Open: 10 am – 10 pm  
Tel: 8454 5539, 8454, 558

### Xiangxi Tucai Restaurant

Open: 10 am – midnight  
Tel: 8448 9191, 6465 7135

### Tianrenshuizhen Anhui Private Dishes

Open: 9:30 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 6467 6676

### Feimao Spicy Pot

Open: 10 am – early next day  
This is a newly – opened restaurant, no telephone number yet.

### Du Men Chong

Open: 10 am – 10 pm  
Tel: 6466 0100

### Qiu's Roast Oyster

Open: 11 am – midnight

Tel: 8180 4233

### Jiayufang Fujian Cuisine Restaurant

Open: 10 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 6463 4310

## Western

### Abella Italian Restaurant

Open: 11 am – 10:30 pm  
Tel: 8448 0540

### Wirtshaus am See Restaurant

Open: 11 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 6467 7445

## Japanese

### Xiangtuo Japanese

### Teppan – Yaki Restaurant

Open: 10 am – 2 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm  
Tel: 6462 5867

### Qinghai Japanese Restaurant & Noodle Restaurant

Open: 11:30 am – 2 pm, 5:30 pm – 10 pm  
Tel: 8448 0546

## South Korean

### Wuliudao South Korean Barbeque

Open: 9:30 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 6468 6902

## African

### Pili Pili

Open: 9:30 am – 2 am next day  
Tel: 8448 4332

## Middle East

### Biteapitta

Open: 11 am – 9 pm  
Tel: 6467 2961

## Thai

### Little Bangkok Thai Restaurant

Open: 11 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 8690 2382

## Malaysia

### Awana (Beijing, London, India) taste of Malaysia

Open: 11 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 6462 0004

## Kosher food

### Dini's Kosher Restaurant

Open: 10 am – 10 pm, 24 hours during the Olympics, but closed 2:30 pm every Friday to 9 pm Saturday  
Tel: 6461 6220, 132 4196 2985

## Bars & Cafe

### UBC Coffee

Open: 8:30 am – 1 am next day  
Tel: 8448 0841

### New Get Lucky Bar

Open: 11 am – late  
Tel: 8448 3335

### Shanba Cafe & Lounge

Open: 2 pm – 2 am next day  
Tel: 6465 6319

### Afro Arena

Open: midday – early next day  
Tel: 134 2629 9820

### Cylinder Bar

Open: 11:30 am – 2 am next day  
Tel: 6468 2388

(By Jackie Zhang)